

COLIN PHILLIPS

INCREASE YOUR WORDPOWER

ALTRAVOX PRESS

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INCREASE YOUR WORDPOWER!

**WITH CLOZE TESTS, WORD FORMATIONS,
COLLOCATIONS, ETC
– INCLUDING A VOCABULARY GAME!**



ALTRAVOX PRESS

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Foreword

The reader can find in this book over a hundred exercises of various shapes and sizes. It's probably true to say that it is mainly suitable for advanced students. However, the exercises in some sections are "graded" according to difficulty – with easier tests being followed by more difficult ones. Thus, it is my belief that intermediate students too can very much benefit from its contents! The book has also to some extent been arranged thematically, and has exercises that are interrelated. Additionally, there is towards the back of the book a vocabulary game. Hence, teachers should also find this work very useful – especially in the classroom...

I would like to thank a number of people who have encouraged me to write this book, including the following: Ola Hans, Joseph Khun and Ben Paflin – all from Adam Mickiewicz University. Also, my long standing friends – Robert Bramble and Alex MacLean of Portsmouth. Not least, perhaps, I should thank my wife, Joanna, for her patience and forbearance whilst I have spent hundreds of hours working on it! I can reassure the reader that as this may be my last direct work on vocabulary as such, at least for a while, I have put a bit of "heart and soul" into it! Therefore, I hope that you will very much enjoy this work as well as find it immensely educative!

Colin Phillips

CLOZE TESTS.
(Plus one or two other exercises.)

Cloze Test 1: Art.

Instructions. Fill each space in the text below with a suitable word.
 (Note that only ONE word per space is allowed and that it must make grammatical sense.)

Artful Space!

At _____ (1), the Tate Gallery has found the ultimate in minimalist art – a room full of _____ (2). Yes, that's right – nothing! Well, almost. There is a man cranking an old hand-turned record player, churning _____ (3) indistinct human voices. But to all intents and _____ (4), Liverpool's Tate in the North now has an _____ (5) largely consisting of an empty attic. To balance matters, American artist Ann Hamilton has added a very full room – full of sailcloth which visitors push their way _____ (6). But even before reaching this towering peak of creative excellence, _____ (7) of the public paying one pound a _____ (8) - are treated to the _____ (9) of a heater producing condensation. A spokesperson for the gallery said the exhibition was _____ (10) by Liverpool and the River Mersey. The advertising blurb for the exhibition says: "Ann's response to the city was, in part, a response to the presence of the River Mersey, with its huge tidal _____ (11), and its relation to the original _____ (12) of the gallery's nineteenth century warehouse building – a place of stuffing and emptying, of comings and _____ (13)." Visitors were divided in their opinions on the exhibition. Shop worker Samantha Smith said: "I really liked the room full of sailcloth". But civil _____ (14) John Robbins, 54, concluded: "I think somebody must be _____ (15) the Mickey (15)!"

Some questions for discussion:

- 1.) What do you think of modern art? (Does it represent “the peak of creative excellence”?)
- 2.) Would you pay money to see the above exhibition? (Should artists receive government funding and support?)
- 3.) What’s the purpose of art – is it to make money?

- 4.) Should artists be held responsible for what they create and should art be subject to censorship?
- 5.) Finally, what's your favourite work of art? (Remember, films and sculptures and some other things are art forms too!)

Art – Continued.

Some useful phrases.* Instructions. Complete each of the following phrases (loosely connected with the topic of art) by choosing one of the words listed below. Note that each word may be used more than once.

Art, Black, Brush, Lick, Picture, Red.

- 1.) If someone, usually a girl, is very good looking, they might be described as being as pretty as a _____. (This phrase can also apply to things, but generally applies to people.)
- 2.) If you are in the _____, you are usually aware of what is going on or being considered as a likely candidate for something; but if you are out of the _____, you are not!
- 3.) This place needs decorating! What it could do with is a _____ of paint. (You might also use the phrase a "coat" of paint – especially if it is very badly in need of repainting.)
- 4.) Some people think art shouldn't be limited to money or other worldly matters, and say art for _____'s sake. Perhaps they believe especially in the more idealistic purposes of art.
- 5.) I don't think Mark deserves his bad reputation. He's not as _____ as he's painted.
- 6.) If someone is accused of being _____y-farty, they may be considered to be too delicate or affected in their behaviour. So, for instance, one might describe a footballer who is very skilful but afraid to tackle as being this way.
- 7.) If you give someone the _____ off, you reject them. (You might also, of course, "get" this too!)

8.) James looks very healthy after his recent illness. In fact, he looks a _____ of health!

9.) Another way of saying that you are going to improve your knowledge of something – to revise your notes for instance – is to say that you are going to _____ up on it.

10.) Another way of saying that you are going out to celebrate something is to say that you are going to paint the town _____!

***(A couple of other useful words you might like to note/consider in the area of this topic are “artistry” and “picturesque” – the latter very often being used to describe a particularly beautiful landscape, the former the skill of an artist or workman.)**

Cloze Test 2: Bribery.

Instructions. Fill each space in the text below with a suitable word.
 (Note that only one word per space is allowed and that it must make grammatical sense.)

Bribery seems to be a common problem these days. Perhaps part of the problem is that it can be easily c o o n t e r o u l l g h o o d (1) with the offer of rewards or other inducements. Rewards are undoubtedly positive – particularly if you are the one receiving them! Inducements too can be positive – depending on what they are intended to i l e g u l l g h o o e (2)? For example,

a u l l g h o o s h e m e n t o u l l g h o o u l l (3) scheme at work – or some other such inducement – to work hard, is perfectly acceptable and almost par for the u l l g h o o m (4) these days, or certainly very

c o o n t e r o u l l g h o o c o o u l l (5). However, the offer of inducements by

c o o n t e r o u l l g h o o c o o u l l (6) companies to those who make the decisions when

c o o n t e r o u l l g h o o d o o n t e r o u l l g h o o u l l (7) for a contract to build something is perhaps not so acceptable. Additionally, the offer of an inducement to a policeman to perhaps look the u l l g h o o h o o r (8) way after committing a minor t a u l l g h o o c (9) offence should not be considered positively either – even though it might help

s o o p o o m o o t o o u l l g h o o u l l (10) his rather

m o o g o o u l l g h o o u l l g h o o u l l (11) wages! The word inducement generally has positive connotations, but can be easily confused with the word bribe. Then again, even bribes can be looked on

f o o v o o r o o b o o u l l g h o o u l l g h o o u l l (12). Every parent in Poland, for instance, it seems, will face the

c o o n t e r o u l l g h o o u l l g h o o u l l g h o o u l l (13) at some point in their life of whether to offer their child some kind of bribe in order to encourage them to get better results at school! This may well have the

d o o u l l g h o o u l l g h o o u l l g h o o u l l g h o o u l l (14) effect in the

c o o n t e r o u l l g h o o u l l g h o o u l l g h o o u l l g h o o u l l (15) term – but is it really a good thing? Perhaps this is something that requires some deep thought..!

Some questions for discussion:

- 1.) Well, is receiving money for doing one's homework a good idea?
- 2.) Is bribery acceptable generally? Are there any dangers?
- 3.) If you wanted to stop bribery, how would you do it? Would you punish the people who receive bribes, for instance, or those

who give them?

4.) What would it take to bribe you...?

Bribery Continued.

Instructions. Some of the phrases below are connected with bribery and some not. Can you say which are connected with bribery? Simply place a tick by those that you think are.

- 1.) A backhander
- 2.) Boons
- 3.) To grease somebody's palm
- 4.) A freebie
- 5.) Free kicks
- 6.) Gratuities
- 7.) Hush money
- 8.) Incitements
- 9.) Kickbacks
- 10.) Money under the table
- 11.) A slush fund
- 12.) Spurs
- 13.) Sweeteners
- 14.) Throw ins

Cloze Test 3: Relationships.

Instructions. Fill each space in the text below with a suitable word.
 (Note that only one word per space is allowed and that it must make grammatical sense.)

A new television programme in America – Blind Hate – plans to show couples splitting _____ (1)! The programme is already advertising in the papers for potential “contestants”. The makers of the programme have _____ (2) up with a plan to tempt one partner into being unfaithful to the other – with them being _____ (3) up by an attractive “stranger” – so that the second partner then has a good excuse for being able to get _____ (4) of the first one! All of this will take place under the _____ (5) of a secret camera, with both the partners subsequently being invited into a television studio where the film will be shown to a studio audience. Only one partner will know what the show is really all _____ (6), with the unfaithful one suddenly being confronted with their own _____ (7). The show boasts that it will have special counsellors on _____ (8) to help deal with the split and its psychological impact. However, it has already come in for severe _____ (9) from religious and other bodies who claim that it is potentially very dangerous as well as in very bad _____ (10). The Church in particular says that it damages the _____ (11) of marriage and is highly immoral. Many psychologists too have condemned it despite some of their _____ (12) taking part in the spectacle. Whether the show actually finally gets the go _____ (13) remains to be _____ (14), but its makers are optimistic that it will be a great _____ (15)!

Some questions for discussion:

- 1.) Do you think such a show would be popular?
- 2.) What are the dangers of such a programme?

- 3.) Is there a good way of splitting up with someone? How can/should one go about it? (What about if the other person won't take "no" for an answer?)
- 4.) Is it possible under normal circumstances for people to still be friends after being seriously involved with one another and subsequently parting? (Should divorce be made easier? Or perhaps marriage more difficult?)
- 5.) Finally, what do you think about some of the following sayings:
 - a.) love is blind.
 - b.) love makes the world go round.
 - c.) all's fair in love and war.

Cloze Test 4: Unemployment/Work.

Instructions. Fill each space in the text below with a suitable word. (Note that only one word per space is allowed and that it must make grammatical sense.) Some letters at the beginning of each word have been provided – to help you.

An army of 10 million Chinese peasants is r_____ (1) the country s_____ (2) work. An even bigger army of around 130 million peasants, still at home, is without work. The figures, published by the Communist news service, explain the m_____ (3) of people g_____ (4) together outside the Canton railway station each morning. It may well be that the numbers f_____ (5) to the coastal cities to take advantage of less st_____ (6) controls on movement and greater job opportunities could reach as high as 30 million soon. Notices are being p_____ (7) and orders given telling people to go back to their towns and villages and warning city employers not to advertise jobs in the c_____ (8)! Until recently the cities welcomed these m_____ (9) workers because they were cheap. However, recent proc_____ (10) of austerity, banning building projects, mean less work is available. In addition, figures reveal that in some cities migrant workers acc_____ (11) for more than half of the recent crim_____ (12) arrests! Ironically, the household registration system, which made it ill_____ (13) for people to leave home without permission, has been ab_____ (14) making it easier for peasants to move to the cities. The authorities appear to be at a l_____ (15) as to what more they can do.

Some questions for discussion:

- 1.) How important is it to be in work and why? (Is it just important for financial reasons?)
- 2.) What do you think are the worst things about being unemployed? (Is it just the lack of money?)
- 3.) What can be done to help the unemployed? (Should they be banned from moving around the country? Should they be encouraged to move elsewhere to find employment? Should they have to move elsewhere?)
- 4.) What can those who are unemployed do to help themselves?
- 5.) Are trade unions a good or a bad thing?

Cloze Test 5: Describing a photograph!

Instructions. Fill each space in the text below with a suitable word. (Note that only one word per space is allowed and that it must make grammatical sense.) This time some letters of each answer word have been given – which must be adhered to and which may help you.

Describing a photograph is not an easy task – even at the
b _____ t (1) of times. Whether it's a picture of a
s p _____ w l _____ g (2) landscape with
r _____ a m _____ g (3) hills or ice
c _____ p _____ d (4) mountains – or a typical
p _____ t _____ t (5) of one's family – describing it does
have its problems. First of all, there are all the technicalities to consider! That landscape, for instance – has it been taken with a
_____ i d _____ (6) angle lens in order to fit it all in? Have, even, certain other technical devices been used – such as a colour
_____ i l t _____ r (7) to give it something of an artistic finish? What about, on the other hand, that photo of one's family – is it a
_____ l _____ s _____ (8) up, perhaps taken with a
_____ o _____ m (9) lens? It's not out of _____ o _____ u s (10) I hope? Is it a typically posed scene taken h _____ a _____ (11) on or rather a sudden _____ n _____ p _____ h _____ t (12) taken from an unusually _____ o b _____ q _____ e (13) angle? No doubt the former, one suspects! Then there is the question of whether the photo has a
g _____ s s (14) or m _____ t (15) finish – never mind whether it is in black and white or in colour! These are all factors which one might comment on and which might make one's
_____ a _____ k (16) more difficult. Finally, there is the choice of words to use to describe the picture! Should one say "in" or "on" this picture "I can see..."? Well, the answer to the first part of that question is simple – it must be "____ n" (17)! But one doesn't only have to use the phrase "I can see"! One might also say this picture "shows" us or
"____ e p _____ c _____ s" (18) or
"____ p _____ t _____ y ____" (19) and so on! The choice is yours. Only don't forget, if it's that mountain scene don't forget to mention the
_____ w _____ r l _____ g (20) clouds too! Nearly all such romantic pictures have them!

Some questions for discussion:

1. Can you remember and describe your favourite photo?
2. Is it true that the camera never lies?
3. Is photography an art form? If so, which is the greater art form – photography or painting?

WORD FORMATIONS

Which Word? Or 50-50! Instructions. Decide which of the (two) words in capitals in each of the sentences below best completes that sentence. (Note these capitalised words relate to/are variants of the key word in brackets at the end of the sentences – there for reference purposes only on this occasion.)

- 1.) Most show business stars would probably prefer to be called ARTISTS/ARTISTES. (ART)
- 2.) Oh, I don't know which one to take – you CHOOSE/CHOSE for me. (CHOICE)
- 3.) I'm not absolutely sure of the details, but to the best of my COLLECTION/RECOLLECTION the man who robbed the bank had a beard. (COLLECT)
- 4.) I knew a cinema once which kept showing films in three parts, but kept getting the order of these parts mixed up! Sometimes they'd show the ending first, then they'd show the beginning and then the middle. Sometimes they'd show the beginning but then the ending and so on! In the end they were warned that unless they got their CONTINUANCE/CONTINUITY right they'd be closed down! (CONTINUE)
- 5.) The opposition party has come out with a new MANIFESTATION/MANIFESTO which it hopes will win it the next election. (MANIFEST)
- 6.) The government is trying to reduce inflation with a carefully managed MONETARY/MONEYS policy. (MONEY)
- 7.) After the recent war in Afghanistan, things are now beginning to return to NORMALITY/NORMALNESS. (NORMAL)
- 8.) The accident happened with such RAPIDITY/RAPIDLY that there was little anyone could do. (RAPID)
- 9.) Being surrounded, I think the best thing we can do to defend ourselves is to build a STOCKADE/STOCKPILE. Let's move our wagons into a circle. (STOCK)

- 10.) Ah, there you are – at last! We've been AWAITING/WAITING for you for some time! (WAIT)
- 11.) The latest package of benefits for the poor is strongly WEIGHED/WEIGHTED in favour of those who are most in need – so that it is indeed the poorest who receive the most money. (WEIGH)

MULTIPLE CHOICE 1.

Or 1 in 3! Instructions. Choose the best option – “a”, “b”, or “c” – to complete each sentence below. (These options in the vast majority represent variants of the key word in brackets given at the end of each sentence.)

- 1.) A _____ is a high ranking official in the British navy, next in line below the rank of rear admiral. (COMMAND)
 - a.) commander
 - b.) commandant
 - c.) commodore

- 2.) Have you read Mark’s latest book? It’s a _____ study of the works of John Lennon and George Harrison. (COMPARE)
 - a.) comparison
 - b.) comparable
 - c.) comparative

- 3.) Keith has a sweet tooth – and especially likes _____ fruit. (CRYSTAL)
 - a.) crystallised
 - b.) crystalline
 - c.) crystallite

- 4.) The true motives for Jack the Ripper’s notorious murders in Britain in the late nineteenth century are rather _____, but one thing is for sure – that they were all rather grisly. (DETERMINE)
 - a.) determination
 - b.) determinant
 - c.) indeterminate

- 5.) Whether Britain should adopt the Euro is rather a _____ issue in Britain at the moment, with roughly half the people for and half against! (DIVIDE)
 - a.) divisive
 - b.) division
 - c.) indivisible

6.) I do wish you'd stop _____ me to clean the windows – I'll do them soon! (PEST)

- a.) pestilent
- b.) pestilential
- c.) pestering

7.) When Joanna looked under the Christmas tree, she saw a _____ of presents – it would surely take the whole day to open them! (PLENTY)

- a.) plentiful
- b.) plenitude
- c.) plenteous

8.) I quite like pickled cucumbers, but they keep _____ on me – I can taste them time and time again for hours afterwards! (REPEAT)

- a.) repetitive
- b.) repeating
- c.) repetitious

9.) For some people the _____ from their own national currency to the Euro was easy, but for others it took some getting used to. (TRANSIT)

- a.) transition
- b.) transitory
- c.) transient

10.) Fortunately, in the recent spate of anthrax attacks in America the anthrax had not been _____, otherwise the consequences could have been far, far worse. (WEAPON)

- a.) weaponry
- b.) weaponised
- c.) weaponed

MULTIPLE CHOICE 2.

Or 1 in 3. *Instructions.* Choose the best option – “a”, “b”, or “c” – to complete each sentence below.

- 1.) The management suspected that there must be a union _____ amongst the staff before there was so much agitation. (ACTIVE)
a.) activate
b.) activation
c.) activist

- 2.) The government decided it should consult an _____ panel before attempting to make legal changes in the immigration laws – in order to be certain of the potential consequences. (ADVICE)
a.) advise
b.) advising
c.) advisory

- 3.) Our company has been accepted for listing on the stock exchange. This _____ should stand us in good stead! (CREDIT)
a.) accredited
b.) accreditation
c.) credo

- 4.) Whether or not Poland should join the European Union seems to be something of a _____ issue at the moment – with many people for but some clearly against. (DIVIDE)
a.) divergent
b.) dividing
c.) divisive

- 5.) I think the government’s idea of taxing beards is rather an _____ one. (EXPLOIT)
a.) exploitation
b.) exploitative
c.) exploits

6.) The referee who will be _____ at this year's F.A.

Cup final is one of my relatives, you know! (OFFICIAL)

- a.) officialdom
- b.) officiating
- c.) officious

7.) The latest plague of locusts sweeping across the country is proving to be very _____ indeed. Hardly any greenery is left in their wake. (PEST)

- a.) pestering
- b.) pestilential
- c.) pestilence

8.) After it was discovered several financial advisors had been cheating their clients, a new _____ body was set up – to

oversee matters and prevent such a thing happening again. (REGULATE)

- a.) regulation
- b.) regulatory
- c.) irregularities

9.) An event which takes place every three years is a

_____ one. (THREE)

- a.) triennial
- b.) trinity
- c.) triumvirate

10.) Aha! You thought you had me fooled, but you can't

_____ me that easily! I knew what you were up to. (WIT)

- a.) dimwit
- b.) nitwit
- c.) outwit

MULTIPLE CHOICE 3.

Or 1 in 4! Instructions. Choose the best option – “a”, “b”, “c” or “d” – to complete each sentence below.

- 1.) I cannot thank you enough! I'm very _____ of your help. (APPRECIATE)
a.) appreciable
b.) appreciation
c.) appreciative
d.) depreciate

- 2.) The management insisted that their offer for the pay rise was an _____ one and that they weren't prepared to give any more money. (APPRECIATE)
a.) appreciable
b.) appreciation
c.) appreciative
d.) depreciate

- 3.) You know, there are actually some modern day physics experts who believe in the existence of a time _____ - a permanent structure throughout the entire existence of time - by which time travel could be attained. Imagine that! (CONTINUE)
a.) continual
b.) continuity
c.) continuum
d.) continuously

- 4.) There's something strange with the plot of Mark's latest play. There doesn't seem to be any _____ between one scene and the next – it all seems to be a bit illogically arranged. (CONTINUE)
a.) continual
b.) continuity
c.) continuum
d.) continuously

- 5.) In Hawaii it is _____ to greet visitors to the country with a special garland of flowers. (CUSTOM)
a.) accustomed
b.) customised

- c.) customary
d.) unaccustomed
- 6.) Well, actually, your dress does look a bit odd, darling! I think I just need a little time to become _____ to it! Ouch! Why did you slap me? (CUSTOM)
- a.) accustomed
b.) customised
c.) customary
d.) unaccustomed
- 7.) After grabbing hold of the bag, the thief then _____ to run off down the street. (PROCEED)
- a.) proceeded
b.) proceedings
c.) proceeds
d.) processed
- 8.) I think we should invest the _____ from the sale of our company on the stock market. How About you? (PROCEED)
- a.) proceeded
b.) proceedings
c.) proceeds
d.) processed
- 9.) As the _____ marched down the street they sang protest songs. (PROCEED)
- a.) procession
b.) processed
c.) procedure
d.) progression
- 10.) The doctor warned the patient that the slowing down of the _____ of the disease was entirely dependent upon his giving up smoking. (PROCEED)
- a.) procession
b.) processed
c.) procedure
d.) progression

MULTIPLE CHOICE 4.

Or 1 in 4! *Instructions.* Choose the best option – “a”, “b”, “c” or “d” – to complete each sentence below.

- 1.) What's wrong with Gerald today? He doesn't seem very _____ - I have to keep repeating everything I say!
(ATTENTION)
- a.) attentive
 - b.) unattentive
 - c.) attendant
 - d.) inattentive
- 2.) Yes, Gerald does seem rather _____ - perhaps he has other things on his mind? (ATTENTION)
- a.) attentive
 - b.) unattentive
 - c.) attendant
 - d.) inattentive
- 3.) The job losses at the Smith's factory were obviously going to hurt, but the management tried to _____ the damage by offering huge redundancy payments. (MINIMUM)
- a.) minimal
 - b.) minimalistic
 - c.) minimalise
 - d.) minuscule
- 4.) Some modern artists might be claimed to have an entirely _____ approach – using only one colour, for instance, to paint an entire painting. (MINIMUM)
- a.) minimal
 - b.) minimalistic
 - c.) minimalise
 - d.) minuscule
- 5.) Many staff at the Smith's factory are to be made unemployed, but at least they'll receive a _____ payment to help them survive financially for a while. (SEVER)
- a.) severing
 - b.) severance

- c.) severed
d.) severe
- 6.) After the accident, Jones had to receive emergency treatment as he had a _____ artery. In fact, he nearly died! (SEVER)
- a.) severing
b.) severance
c.) severed
d.) severe
- 7.) I've had enough of your secret _____! Come on, tell me who you're dating and where? (SIGN)
- a.) assigns
b.) assignments
c.) assigned
d.) assignations
- 8.) If management _____ you heavy duties again, then you must tell the union – as you're only supposed to do light work. Okay? (SIGN)
- a.) assigns
b.) assignments
c.) assigned
d.) assignations
- 9.) With Hitler defeated, the Third Reich was _____ to history. It would never be seen again. (SIGN)
- a.) signatory's
b.) signifies
c.) consigned
d.) signatures
- 10.) I know a special agreement was signed as I was one of the _____ to it. (SIGN)
- a.) signatory's
b.) signifies
c.) consigned
d.) signatures

Verbs.

Instructions. Take the key word – in brackets – at the end of each question below, and change it into a suitable variant to complete the given sentence. All the answer words in this section are verbs. (See also “Synonyms 1” later on for further work on these words!)

- 1.) I don't think one should _____ oneself to just any point of view! One must be selective. (ALLIED)
- 2.) I think my last statement _____ the situation pretty well – at least, I can't think of any better summary! (CAPSULE)
- 3.) Our mortgage company has declared that if we don't pay our mortgage soon they will _____ on us. We'll lose our home! (CLOSE)
- 4.) I'm sorry, I'd love to _____ with you about days gone by – but I'm in a bit of a hurry right now! Maybe next time? (CONVERSATION)
- 5.) Yes, I _____ in the odd game of scrabble now and then – so, I'll give you a game if you like? (DAB)
- 6.) The government of Britain has asked the Spanish authorities to _____ several well-known criminals taking refuge in their country in the past, and it is hoped with the new agreement between them that these criminals will now be shortly on their way to Britain and justice! (EXTRADITION)
- 7.) I fear Argentina is going bankrupt and that it's going to _____ on its loans! (FAULT) (The answer word to this one may also in some contexts serve as a noun.)
- 8.) After consulting with his linesman, the referee has finally _____ that the goal should be disallowed for off-side. What a pity for Southampton! (JUDGE)
- 9.) Gerald was almost choking and it was only after some effort that he managed to _____ the piece of bread from his throat! (LODGE)

- 10.) Look, I know you've lost your wallet, but there's no use in keeping on _____ the fact. Someone has stolen it and that's all there is to it! (MOAN)
- 11.) I'm afraid I disagree with you – I do not _____ to your point of view. (SCRIBE) (Take note that the answer word is not subscribe!)
- 12.) Ah, I see you've cooked dinner! Do you mind if I _____ of this particular feast too? (TAKE)

Nouns 1.

Instructions. Take the key word – in brackets – at the end of each question below, and change it into a suitable variant to complete the given sentence. All the answer words in this section are nouns. (See also “Synonyms 2” for further work on these words!)

- 1.) Matilda's disgust and hatred of Gerald was apparent in the way she looked at him in sheer ______. He had obviously said the wrong thing! (ABHOR)
- 2.) Really! The _____ of Gerald sometimes is too much! Someone ought to teach him to be less impudent and a little more polite. (AUDACIOUS)
- 3.) The Prime Minister has come under some suspicion, with several _____ of bribery and corruption having been made. (ALLEGGE)
- 4.) With the development of a motorway close by, the natural _____ of several wild animals in the nature reserve is under threat. (HABIT)
- 5.) Several houses too could almost be claimed to be unfit for human _____ given the severe increase in noise levels following such a development! (HABIT)
- 6.) Yes, Gerald does like to come into this pub now and then, but I hardly call him a _____ of the place – he does like to drink in the other pub down the road as well! (HABIT)
- 7.) Someone who intervenes, particularly in the arena of politics or international affairs, may well be called an _____ (INTERVENE)
- 8.) A small island that is surrounded by a sea or ocean may well be referred to, in actuality, as an _____ rather than as an island. (ISLAND)
- 9.) If, in turn, the “island” is very small indeed – say, one that is in the middle of a river or lake – it should probably be called an _____! (ISLAND)

- 10.) Our whisky, sir, is very special and takes twenty years before we consider it has reached its full _____. Would you, perhaps, like to come back in ten years time? (MATURE) (Two answers are possible for this one – either will do!)
- 11.) Given the money needed to raise children, _____ is certainly no easy task these days. (PARENT)
- 12.) The child left at the gates of the orphanage is of unknown _____ and police are appealing for witnesses who may have seen anyone in the vicinity yesterday evening. (PARENT)
- 13.) You're so kind that you deserve a _____! Of course, only the Pope is allowed to confer this, but I still think you deserve it! (SAINT)
- 14.) Some people say society is so controlled by technology these days that it may well be claimed that we don't live in a democracy or, if unlucky, autocracy but in a _____! (TECHNICAL)
- 15.) Yes, and the people who run such a society, or for whom technology is more important than other people, might be called _____! (TECHNICAL)

Nouns 2.

Instructions. Take the key word – in brackets – at the end of each question below, and change it into a suitable variant to complete the given sentence. All the answer words in this section are nouns. (See also “Synonyms 2” for further work on these words!)

- 1.) Life in the army is very disciplined. We demand absolute _____ to the rules! There can be no exceptions.
(ADHERE)
- 2.) I'm not sure this glue is going to work? What we need is something with greater powers of _____. Perhaps we should try some super glue? (ADHERE)
- 3.) The latest release by the Bangles has a great _____ of songs on it. You should listen to it sometime! (COMPILE)
- 4.) Mark and Helen had a stormy _____, but still decided in the end to get married. Whether it will work or not remains to be seen? (COURT)
- 5.) Who knows? If you live to be one hundred in Britain, you might get a visit from a royal _____ - delivering a special birthday card from the queen. (COURT)
- 6.) Really! I do wish Tom would stop making such rude jokes! I find his _____ quite offensive! (CRUDE)
- 7.) Okay, let's get moving! We've received a _____ to advance on the enemy! Orders are orders! (DIRECT)
- 8.) It came as a great shock to the government that there had been such a lot of _____ of secret information about their armed forces. Security had to be tightened up. (DISCLOSE)
- 9.) For the ancient peoples of Boa, the snake of the same name was a _____ - which they worshipped rather than loathed! (DIVINE)

- 10.) Scientists have proven that trees and other such _____ in cities and built up areas help reduce the overall temperature – which is very useful on hot summer days. (GREEN)
- 11.) The government warned that there are Islamic fundamentalists who believe they will receive _____ if they blow themselves up for the right cause. One must be on one's guard. (MARTYR)
- 12.) My uncle used to be full time in the army but now he's an army _____. (RESERVE)
- 13.) The sort of room where photographs are developed is, of course, known as a _____. (ROOM)
- 14.) John O'Connell was such a wonderful, kind man. I think he almost deserves a _____. (SAINT)
- 15.) One type of glass very useful for drinking orange or some other cold drink out of is a _____. (TUMBLE)

Nouns 3.

Instructions. Take the key word – in brackets – at the end of each question below, and change it into a suitable variant to complete the given sentence. All the answer words in this section are nouns. (See also “Synonyms 3” for further work on these words!)

- 1.) It was only after the Taliban leadership had crumbled that several _____ were discovered. (ATROCIOUS)
- 2.) A detailed plan of something, the layout of a restaurant for instance, might also be referred to as the _____ of/for that thing. (BLUE)
- 3.) Since the birth of Natalia I think I've been suffering from sleep _____ - I haven't slept properly in ages! (DE-PRIVE)
- 4.) The show was wild and spectacular – altogether, an _____! (EXTRAVAGANT)
- 5.) The hurricane has left the inhabitants of the island completely _____. They have no crops, no possessions – in fact, nothing! (POVERTY)
- 6.) Excuse me, but I think there is something wrong with my eyesight. May I have a _____ to an optician? (REFER)
- 7.) I like all the _____ connected with royal occasions. (REGAL)
- 8.) Another name for a person who owns a restaurant is a _____. (RESTAURANT)
- 9.) We are sending our ambassador in Japan on a _____ to Afghanistan – he should enjoy that! (SECOND)
- 10.) It's a good job we crossed the river by boat rather than by that old bridge. How did you know it was going to collapse? Was it instinct or _____? I suppose, as you're an engineer by trade, it must have been the latter? (SIGHT)

- 11.) Our headache tablets are _____, which means they dissolve and get to your pain fast! (SOLUTION)
- 12.) If I take out a loan, could you act as _____ for me? You see, I need somebody to guarantee the money will be repaid before the bank will give it to me, but I promise I'll repay it. (SURE)
- 13.) Once Germany became a dictatorship it fell into a state of complete _____ - with absolutely no opposition allowed. (TOTAL)
- 14.) Mister Hyde and Frankenstein are a gruesome _____! I wouldn't like to meet them on a dark night! (TWO)
- 15.) The committee has decided with unparalleled _____ that the merger of the two companies should go ahead. (UNAMINOUS)

Nouns 4.

Instructions. Take the key word – in brackets – at the end of each question below, and change it into a suitable variant to complete the given sentence. (See also “Synonyms 4” for further work on these words!)

- 1.) I like villages and close-knit communities. I hate the _____ of big cities. (ANONYMOUS)
- 2.) Look, if you must smoke, can you at least put your ash in the _____ and not scatter it around all over the place? (ASH)
- 3.) One has to be careful in the mountainous regions of the country even today as there is still a lot of _____ in these areas. (BANDIT)
- 4.) When making cakes you must mix and knead the dough until it is of the right _____. (CONSISTENT)
- 5.) After several years of marriage, Gerald had finally settled into a life of serene _____ - home was where he most liked to be! (DOMESTIC)
- 6.) The Prime Minister warned the people of his country that they must be ready for any _____ - even the possibility of war. (EVENT)
- 7.) First the enemy had occupied one country and then another and then another. Their _____ had to be stopped. (EXPANSION)
- 8.) I think there is actually a lot of psychology behind the opposing football team’s manager’s apparent _____. There’s many a true word spoken in jest after all. (KIDDING)
- 9.) Excuse me, but can you do an _____ of this photo? I’d like a bigger copy, if possible? (LARGE)
- 10.) Let’s hope the factory doesn’t close down, for if it does many people will lose their _____. (LIVE)

- 11.) I must say that male peacock's have very attractive _____, which of course plays an important part in attracting the female of the species. (PLUME)
- 12.) It appears that the murder victim died as a result of _____. (STRANGLE)
- 13.) It could be said that Microsoft has a _____ on the computer market at the moment. It's certainly very difficult for their competitors to get a look in! (STRANGLE)
- 14.) Unfortunately, there was a lot of _____ during my flight from London and I felt very travelsick! Next time I think I'll travel by boat! (TURBULENT)
- 15.) Oh, I don't know if that's such a good idea! The last time I travelled by boat the _____ of the waves was such that I felt terrible! (UNDULATE)

Nouns 5.

Instructions. Take the key word – in brackets – at the end of each question below, and change it into a suitable variant to complete the given sentence. (See also “Synonyms 5” for further work on these words!)

- 1.) Please accept my _____ on the death of your pet dog. (CONDOLE)
- 2.) You can't expect me to squeeze through that small hole, surely?
What do you think I am – some kind of _____? (CONTORTION)
- 3.) Within the _____ of this special area it is hoped civilians will be safe. (ENVIRONMENT)
- 4.) We've only got three players for our game of bridge – do you fancy joining us and making up a _____? (FOUR)
- 5.) After the death of the president the country had to adopt an _____ leader until a new one could be elected.
Gerald was the man for the job! (INTERMEDIATE)
- 6.) The United Nations is also setting up special _____ lines beyond which only certain individuals will be allowed to go. (MARK)
- 7.) The United Nations has decided to set up a special _____ in Kosovo. (PROTECT)
- 8.) The last person we need in government at this moment of crisis is a _____. We need someone who is a moderate, who thinks about things carefully before reacting! (REACTION) (The answer word can also serve as an adjective in some contexts.)
- 9.) An oil company has decided that they want to open a _____ near one of our finest nature reserves. I hope they don't get permission to do so! (REFINE)
- 10.) When somebody gave Gerald a smart insult he came back with an even smarter _____ - and said something even more stinging and clever in return. (REJOIN)

- 11.) It was six in the morning when the enemy's _____ began. (SLAUGHTER)
- 12.) I think Gerald's saying he thinks he left the gas on is just a _____ for him to be able to leave this boring party! What do you reckon? (TEXT)
- 13.) You know, it's not always a good thing to be the first to do something – one doesn't always have to be a _____ to be a success. (TRAIL)
- 14.) They say as you get older the more _____ you gain. I hope that's true! (WISE)
- 15.) A spokesman for the oil company stated the public had displayed such _____ against their plans to develop a site near the nature reserve that they had abandoned their plans! Good, that's what I say! (VEHEMENT)

Nouns 6.

Instructions. Take the key word – in brackets – at the end of each question below, and change it into a suitable variant to complete the given sentence. (See also “Synonyms 6” for further work on these words!)

- 1.) Although the score was still nil-nil, with two of the away team's men sent off the home side was definitely in the _____. (ASCEND)
- 2.) At eleven a.m. on the eleventh day of the eleventh month there was a _____ of hostilities and the First World War finally came to an end. (CEASE)
- 3.) Now, remember, secrecy is the _____ of our plans. Without it, nothing will work – it is essential to keep things quiet. (CORNER)
- 4.) You mean Tom was expelled? Hurrah! I think his _____ was long overdue! (EXPEL)
- 5.) Someone who guarantees something may otherwise be known as the _____. (GUARANTEE)
- 6.) The female equivalent of an heir is an _____. (HEIR)
- 7.) I don't like nuclear power and I must say I distrust nuclear _____. Look at what happened at Chernobyl, for instance! (PHYSICS)
- 8.) Probably most politicians at some point of time or another can be called _____ - in the sense of simply saying what people want to hear! However, it can be a dangerous tendency with leaders. (POPULAR)
- 9.) The Millennium Bridge in London had to be closed until they could add some _____ to the structure in order to stop it swaying so much! (RIGID)

- 10.) This is a wonderful place to have our picnic, isn't it? It's _____ means that not many people know of its existence. (SECLUDE)
- 11.) I'm afraid you can't see the patient just yet as they are still under strong _____. (SEDATE)
- 12.) I'm suffering from insomnia, doctor. Do you think you could give me some _____? (SEDATE)
- 13.) I wish you'd stop bragging about how many women you've dated! I simply do not wish to know about your _____! (EXPLOITS) (Take note that this one is somewhat colloquial!)
- 14.) I sometimes wonder if Geoffrey isn't mentally _____? He's certainly not very intelligent, at any rate, is he! (SUFFICIENT)
- 15.) James decided he needed plastic surgery! The wart on his nose was really rather an unsightly _____ that had to be got rid of! (TUBER)

Adjectives 1.

Instructions. Take the key word – in brackets – at the end of each question below, and change it into a suitable variant to complete the given sentence. (See also “Synonyms 7” for further work on these words!)

- 1.) The _____ structure of birds is such as to suggest that they were once land living dinosaurs. (ANATOMY)
- 2.) It was difficult to estimate the number of birds in the sky – they were of an _____ number. (DETERMINE)
- 3.) It's not pouring down with rain outside, but it looks a bit _____ - you better take an umbrella. (DRIZZLE)
- 4.) Oh, very funny! How quaint your humour is! Your _____ could win a prize I think – if it were only more suitable for the times we live in and not so old-fashioned! (DROLL) (This word nearly always has negative connotations.)
- 5.) One of the reasons Graham took up writing for a living is because he couldn't stand the _____ of a monotonous nine to five job every day. At least now he works when he wants to. (DRUDGE)
- 6.) What happens to you in childhood is very important. One's _____ years are very important, don't you think? (FORM)
- 7.) Since the military took power, the country's attitude in foreign affairs has definitely become rather _____ - with threats of going to war and rather aggressive demands frequently being made. (MILITARY)
- 8.) Yes, I wouldn't mind a sandwich. I am feeling a bit _____.! (PECK)
- 9.) The battle to hold the bridge had been lost, but it was only, fortunately, a _____ detail – our forces would go on to win the overall war. (PERIPHERY)

- 10.) The commander explained to his troops that the utmost secrecy was _____ to the success of their planned assault. Therefore, no one was to say a word – even to their loved ones. (PIVOT)
- 11.) The _____ structure of human beings is such that we must have once walked on all fours – of that there can surely be no doubt? (SKELETON)
- 12.) The increased number of policemen visible on the streets these days is _____ of the recently increased crime rate – and a clear sign of that fact! (SYMPTOM)
- 13.) Drinking too much is undoubtedly _____, though many ulcers are also caused by a specific type of bacterial infection. (ULCER)
- 14.) It's not my turn to clean the stairs again, is it? Oh, how _____ (WEARY)
- 15.) The firemen knew some chemicals had been spilled because of the _____ fumes coming off the road's surface. (VAPOUR)

Adjectives 2.

Instructions. Take the key word – in brackets – at the end of each question below, and change it into a suitable variant to complete the given sentence. (See also “Synonyms 7” for further work on these words!)

- 1.) If the weather is particularly hot and humid, it might be said to be rather _____. (CLAM)
- 2.) A professor, a leading member of MENSA and a nuclear scientist! Surely, the _____ wisdom of these three ought to be able to come up with an answer? (COLLECT)
- 3.) Many models and actresses have _____ surgery – perhaps to make their nose smaller or something like that - even though it often isn't needed. (CORRECT)
- 4.) Judges must abide by the rules of the law like everyone else , but I do believe they usually have some _____ powers when it comes to handing out sentences! (DISCRETE)
- 5.) Something that cannot be disputed is _____. (DISPUTE)?
- 6.) The BBC has made a CD of the _____ music they have between programmes. (INCIDENT)
- 7.) After the death of his wife, James was _____. Nothing could cheer him up. (CONSOLE)
- 8.) No problem is _____ – that's what I think. Given enough time, every problem has an answer. (MOUNT)?
- 9.) Smoking is said to be _____ to your health. I'd avoid it if I were you. (RUIN)
- 10.) The lake near to where I live is one of the deepest and most _____ in the world. They don't come much bigger! (VOLUME)
- 11.) Yes, I always thought you were rather obstinate. In fact, I've never met anyone so _____ before! (WILL)

Miscellaneous 1 (including some adverbs).

Instructions. Take the key word – in brackets – at the end of each question below, and change it into a suitable variant to complete the given sentence. (See also “Synonyms 8” for further work on these words!)

- 1.) I hate people who walk three _____ in the centre of the pavement – it's so difficult to get past them. (Alternatively, you might say, if you like to keep up to date with current affairs, that you like to keep _____ of the times.) (BREAST)
- 2.) I'm sorry, sir, but the _____ of this cheque is not possible – it's dated for ten years ago! (CASH)
- 3.) Gerald was very naughty in your absence. In fact, he behaved most _____. I refuse to look after your child again! (CREDIT)
- 4.) Are you okay? You look _____ pale. (DEATH)
- 5.) I'm sorry, I can't help you. My reasons are _____ - I have four beautiful women waiting to see me, so I can't spare the time! (FOUR)
- 6.) The robbers entered the bank and held the staff at _____ until they were given the money from the safe. (GUN)
- 7.) I wish Mark would say what he wants instead of being so _____. Is he afraid of being more direct or outspoken? (MEAL)
- 8.) I keep having a _____ nightmare in which I'm sitting my exams again and don't know any of the answers! (OCCUR)
(Take note that the answer is not re-occurring, which is hyphenated!)
- 9.) You mean you didn't see my note on the door saying I'd be back in five minutes? Of all places, I _____ put it there as I thought there it would be glaringly visible – but obviously not! (POINT)

- 10.) Someone must be causing all the trouble, surely? There must be an agent _____ amongst them? Why else did the workforce keep going on strike? (PROVOKE)
- 11.) The captain ordered the other boat to pull _____ prior to bordering it for inspection. (SIDE)
- 12.) The thief had fallen for the bait and the police had caught their man! In the end, his _____ had proved easy! (TRAP)
- 13.) Ah, sorry I can't help you Jim. My reasons are _____ - I have twelve handsome men waiting to assist me with my homework. Better luck next time! (TWELVE)

Miscellaneous 2 (Mainly nouns).

Instructions. Take the key word – in brackets – at the end of each question below, and change it into a suitable variant to complete the given sentence. (See also “Synonyms 8” for further work on these words!)

- 1.) The flooding in the south of the country was terrible and the government decided they had to make _____ plans to evacuate people from a number of low-lying villages if they got any worse. (CONTINGENT)
- 2.) We believe the government must remain _____ in its attempts to build a solidly based economy. (SQUARE)
- 3.) Gerald doesn't look very pleased with the pay offer. In fact, he looks positively _____. (GRUNT)
- 4.) It's no good trying to force me into doing something I don't want to. Such _____ won't work! (COERCE)
- 5.) What a disappointment! The whole thing was a pretence – nothing more than a _____. (MASK) (This word can also function as a verb.)
- 6.) There are a lot of _____ people in Afghanistan at the moment – people who have been forced to leave their home and have nowhere to live. (PLACE)
- 7.) Mark is the strong silent type! He's not much of a _____. (CONVERSATION)
- 8.) If you think I'm going to loan you some money, I'm afraid you're labouring under a _____. No way Jose, as they say! Sorry! (APPREHEND)
- 9.) The U.N. has decided to send some _____ troops to Afghanistan. Let's hope indeed that they do prevent any more hostilities. (PEACE)
- 10.) Yin and Yang, the Siamese twins, were born _____ at the hip. It required an operation to separate them. (JOINED)

- 11.) After the death of her pet cat Joanna was most
_____ . We simply had to buy her another one. (Not
distressed!) (DISTRESS)
- 12.) Gerald worried about paying his bills and being able to go on holiday.
Even with his bonus payment, there'd still be a cash
_____ of about one hundred pounds. (FALL)

Miscellaneous 3.

Which Word? Instructions. Which word can be joined on to the end of the first word and the beginning of the second word to form a completely new word each time? (The first one below has been done for you – as an example: forming the three words “aver”, “average” and “ageless”. See also “Definitions 4 and 5” for further work on these words!)

- 1.) Aver AGE less.
- 2.) Barn stick.
- 3.) Clamp size.
- 4.) Dug rage.
- 5.) Ever land.
- 6.) Fore away.
- 7.) Gang lay.
- 8.) Hill ping.
- 9.) Imp or.
- 10.) Jail able.
- 11.) Kick gammon.
- 12.) Light boat.
- 13.) Man line.
- 14.) Not box. (Second word is American English.)
- 15.) Over ion.
- 16.) Peer on.
- 17.) Quay show.

- 18.) Rubber_____ tie. (First word – American English.)
- 19.) Spell_____ less.
- 20.) Tail_____ spin.
- 21.) Under_____ at.
- 22.) Van_____ room.
- 23.) Whim_____ son.
- 24.) Your_____ less.
- 25.) Zip_____ severe.

Miscellaneous 4.

Which Word? Instructions. Which word can be joined on to the end of the first word and the beginning of the second word to form a completely new word each time? (Again, the first one has been done for you – as an example, this time forming the three words: “act”, “actor” and “orbit”. See also “Definitions 6 and 7” for further work on these words!)

- 1.) Act _____ OR _____ bit.
- 2.) Ball _____ less.
- 3.) Care _____ on.
- 4.) Drag _____ us.
- 5.) Ear _____ man.
- 6.) Flap _____ ass. (Both American English.)
- 7.) Glow _____ hole.
- 8.) Has _____ or.
- 9.) Irk _____ thing.
- 10.) Jail _____ seed.
- 11.) Kit _____ on.
- 12.) Lap _____ side.
- 13.) Mad _____ rice.
- 14.) Nab _____ room.
- 15.) Out _____ step.
- 16.) Par _____ key.
- 17.) Rain _____ let.

18.) Set _____ water.

19.) Turn _____ turn!

20.) Up _____ game.

21.) Vase _____ age.

22.) Wit _____ ring.

23.) Yet _____ sue.

24.) Zit _____ self.

And one more!

25.) Street _____ cracks.

Miscellaneous 5.

Which Word? Instructions. Which word can be joined on to the end of the first word and the beginning of the second word to form a completely new word each time? (The first one below has been done for you – as an example: forming the three words “after”, “aftertaste” and “tastefully”. (See also “Definitions 8” for further work on these words!)

- 1.) After TASTE fully.
- 2.) Blow _____ dream.
- 3.) Car _____ tend.
- 4.) Deter _____ eel.
- 5.) Ear _____ ling.
- 6.) Fan _____ well.
- 7.) Glut _____ sure.
- 8.) Here _____ burner.
- 9.) Import _____ hill.
- 10.) Jack _____ ash.
- 11.) Kettle _____ stick.
- 12.) Law _____ ability.
- 13.) Man _____ wink.
- 14.) Nit _____ axe.
- 15.) Opera _____ mentor.
- 16.) Pen _____ ace.
- 17.) Quick _____ back.

18.) Regret _____ spoon.

19.) Scam _____ lot.

20.) Tad _____ cat.

21.) Up _____ all.

22.) Vouch _____ keeping.

23.) Wall _____ pot.

24.) Year _____ maker.

And one more!

25.) Quarter _____ drop.

Miscellaneous 6.

Which Word? Instructions. Which word, once more, can be joined on to the end of the first word and the beginning of the second word to form a completely new word each time? This time some missing letters have been provided – which may help you? (Again the first one has been done for you – as an example – forming the three words: “acre”, “acreage” and “ageless”. See also “Definitions 9” for further work on these words!)

- 1.) Acre A G E less.
- 2.) By L ____ maker(s).
- 3.) Car A I N wide.
- 4.) Deter I E shaft
- 5.) Egg H A strong.
- 6.) Fair R U D hog.
- 7.) Go A tire.
- 8.) Hear H B bed.
- 9.) In A L D ate.
- 10.) Jack N F edge.
- 11.) Knock U crop.
- 12.) Lee A ward.
- 13.) Mouth I E C meal.
- 14.) No M den.
- 15.) Ox A L gate. (Second word is American English)
- 16.) Pitch O K lift.
- 17.) Quick I E R fish.

18.) Rein O C fully.

19.) Silver S E step.

20.) Thread B E faced.

21.) Up T T led.

22.) Venture O M what.

23.) War O K step.

24.) Yea S Y list.

And one more! However, this time can you think of one word that is actually made up of/contains five other – consecutive – words?

25.) D C / M / I / A / U / N!

Confusing Words.

Instructions. The following pairs of words are often confused with one another. Can you choose which of the capitalised words best completes each sentence?

- 1a.) Oh no! I haven't forgotten your birthday again, have I? How AMISS/REMISS of me. I'm sorry!
- 1b.) I do hope I didn't say anything AMISS/REMISS just now – Gerald seems to be rather upset?
- 2a.) Some psychologists would like to help severely REPRESSED/SUPPRESSED patients by giving them drugs, but I think just encouraging them to talk might be a better start to their therapy.
- 2b.) The REPRESSED/SUPPRESSED population of Zaire have suffered for several years but are finally in revolt.
- 3a.) Only after WANDERING/WONDERING around for several hours did we finally manage to find our way out of the forest!
- 3b.) I can't help WANDERING/WONDERING why no one brought a map with them!
- 4a.) During one of his Arctic expeditions Scott almost fell down a deep CREVASSE/CREVICE on a glacier.
- 4b.) The tired mountaineer desperately looked for a CREVASSE/CREV-ICE in the rock by which he could gain a foothold to help him climb the last face before the summit.
- 5a.) Now, remember to take a map with you – we don't want you to LOOSE/LOSE your way once again!
- 5b.) I'm going to report that man to the police – he deliberately let his dog LOOSE/LOSE on me!
- 6a.) James is not an easy person to MOLLIFY/MOLLYCODDLE once he's angry – almost nothing can appease him.
- 6b.) I don't think it's good for parents to MOLLIFY/MOLLYCODDLE their children – they can't wrap them up in cotton wool all their lives!

- 7a.) Damn! I've SNAGGED/SNOGGED my jumper on a twig from that tree – I'll have to get it repaired if I don't want it turning into a big hole!
- 7b.) Have you ever SNAGGED/SNOGGED anyone – or do you believe such passionate kissing shouldn't be allowed?
- 8a.) These holiday snaps REMEMBER/REMIND me of what a good time we had while on holiday in Spain last year – let's go there again soon!
- 8b.) I must REMEMBER/REMIND to contact the travel agent to get the tickets!
- 9a.) Personally, I think lying is sometimes a matter of CONSCIENCE/CONSCIOUS, but one should generally aim to be truthful as much as possible in life.
- 9b.) Indeed, I am generally CONSCIENCE/CONSCIOUS of the fact that lying is wrong.
- 10a.) CEASE/SEIZE the moment – is that what the poet said, I can't remember? At any rate, I believe one should endeavour to make the most of every moment in one's life.
- 10b.) Oh I do wish you'd CEASE/SEIZE being so noisy! Can't you be quiet for a moment?
- 11a.) Although my uncle was poor, he never used to SKIMP/SKIMPY on giving his guests a hearty meal whenever they used to visit – he wasn't at all miserly.
- 11b.) Wow! I must say most of the underwear on view on the fashion channel last night was rather SKIMP/SKIMPY! The models were almost naked!
- 12a.) James is finding his computer course very difficult. His hopes of completing it are beginning to FLOUNDER/FOUNDER.
- 12b.) I think I would probably FLOUNDER/FOUNDER whilst doing such a difficult course as well – I'd be bound to struggle with it.

COLLOCATIONS 1.

Instructions. The following words are frequently placed – or collocated – together. Can you match up each word in List 1 with its appropriate partner in List 2? (There is some slight overlap. For instance “Comparative” could go with “Powers”, but if you use this combination not all the words will match up – and there is a better/stronger collocation. This applies to all the following collocation exercises. Also, an explanation of some of the collocations used here may be found in the first definition exercises which follow this section. In this case see “Definitions 1”.)

List 1:

1.) Severance

2.) Comparative

3.) Skimpy

4.) Monetary

5.) Stalking

6.) Discretionary

7.) Divisive

8.) Scant

9.) Shanty

10.) Contingency

List 2:

a.) Powers

b.) Issue

c.) Study/Ease

d.) Underwear

e.) Pay/ment

f.) Regard

g.) Plans/measures

h.) Town

i.) Horse

j.) Policy/Value

COLLOCATIONS 2.

Instructions. The following words are frequently placed – or collocated – together. Can you match up each word in List 1 with its appropriate partner in List 2? (See “Definitions 1” for further work on these words!)

List 1:

1.) Carte

2.) Wreak

3.) Sparsely

4.) Sea

5.) Baking

6.) Inclement

7.) Contentious

8.) Corrective

9.) Corner

10.) Plentiful

List 2:

a.) Populated

b.) Blanche

c.) Shop/Flag

d.) Supply

e.) Havoc

f.) Issue

g.) Hot

h.) Weather

i.) Surgery/Measures

j.) Change

COLLOCATIONS 3.

Instructions. The following words are frequently placed – or collocated – together. Can you match up each word in List 1 with its appropriate partner in List 2? (See also “Definitions 1” for further work on these words!)

List 1:

1.) Displaced

2.) Distress

3.) Recurring

4.) Agent

5.) Deathly

6.) Dab

7.) Demarcation

8.) Formative

9.) Skeleton

10.) Anatomical

List 2:

a.) Hand

b.) Lines

c.) Crew

d.) Pale

e.) Structure

f.) Signal/flare/Call

g.) People

h.) Nightmare

i.) Years

j.) Provocateur

COLLOCATIONS 4.

Which Preposition? Instructions. Which preposition completes each of the following collocations? Choose from those listed below – each possibility may be used more than once or not at all!

At, By, For, In, Of, On, Over, Under.

- 1.) The accused, although guilty, escaped a jail sentence _____ a technicality.
- 2.) He won his case _____ default then?
- 3.) If you think I'm going to clean the windows tomorrow, then you are labouring _____ a misapprehension. I've got other things planned!
- 4.) If we are going to leave early tomorrow, then we need to keep the manager _____ favour.
- 5.) We need to keep him _____ side, then, and not upset him?
- 6.) The bank staff was held _____ gunpoint until the robbers made their getaway.
- 7.) Pollution of the farmland at the moment is not one of our main concerns – it is _____ the periphery compared to our worries about the nearby river.
- 8.) There's no need to worry about your operation, Gregory. Once you are _____ sedation you'll be fine!
- 9.) I've told you – I won't be late again! I'm not _____ the habit of being late, so there's no need to worry. Relax!
- 10.) The Liberal party is doing rather well in the polls at the moment. Their policies seem to be _____ the ascendancy
- 11.) Yes, I see. The sniffles, a slightly sore throat, headache and an attack of the shivers. These are all symptomatic _____ a cold.

COLLOCATIONS 5.

Instructions. Can you complete the following phrases? Match up the first part of each phrase in list 1 with its appropriate partner in list 2. (See also “Definitions 2” for further work on these words!)

List 1:

1.) Semblance of

2.) Cessation of

3.) Chink of

4.) Fraught with

5.) Too little

6.) Lodge a

7.) Large as

8.) Skeleton in

9.) Seize the

10.) Plume of

List 2:

a.) Smoke

b.) Normality

c.) Hostilities

d.) Too late

e.) Life

f.) Danger/difficulties

g.) Complaint

h.) Day/moment

i.) Light

j.) The cupboard

COLLOCATIONS 6.

Instructions. The following words are frequently placed – or collocated – together. Can you match up each word in List 1 with its appropriate partner in List 2? (See also “Definitions 2” for further work on these words!)

List 1:

1.) Camp

2.) Booby

3.) Clammy

4.) Derring

5.) Arms

6.) Regulatory

7.) Sleep

8.) Gruesome

9.) Crystallised

10.) Appreciation

List 2:

a.) Deprivation/Easy

b.) Commandant/David!

c.) Body

d.) Weather

e.) Fruit

f.) Society

g.) Do

h.) Prize/Trap

i.) Race/Dump

j.) Twosome

COLLOCATIONS 7.

Instructions. The following words are frequently placed – or collocated – together. Can you match up each word/phrase in List 1 with its appropriate partner in List 2? (See also “Definitions 2” for further work on these words!)

List 1:

1.) Stinking

2.) Monumental

3.) Down

4.) Stole

5.) Inveterate

6.) Voracious

7.) Incontrovertible

8.) Wrest

9.) Heated

10.) Floating

List 2:

a.) Away

b.) Proof/Evidence

c.) Effort

d.) Appetite

e.) Debate/Undersoil

f.) Under/To Earth!

g.) Control

h.) Cold

i.) Voter

j.) Liar

COLLOCATIONS 8.

Which Preposition? Instructions. Which preposition completes each of the following collocations? Choose from those listed below – each possibility may be used more than once or not at all!

By, For, In, Of, On, Out, To, Up, With.

- 1.) Spoilt _____ choice. To have a wide range of possibilities.
- 2.) Glowing _____ pride. Very proud
- 3.) A stickler _____ detail. Phrase used to describe someone who insists on every detail being observed/a perfectionist – in this sense.
- 4.) _____ a wheelchair. (Self-explanatory phrase – for someone who is wheelchair bound.)
- 5.) To be privy _____ something. To have access to (usually private) information.
- 6.) _____ the doldrums. Feeling depressed.
- 7.) Flatter _____ deceive. To show signs of doing well – only ultimately to disappoint.
- 8.) To have one's work cut _____. To be in a difficult position – where one will have to work hard to progress.
- 9.) Worn _____ a frazzle. Exhausted (by hard work).
- 10.) Jumping _____ joy. Very happy. (The answer is not with! This may in some contexts be used but the answer is actually a more commonly used alternative.)
- 11.) Tea's _____! Tea is ready.

COLLOCATIONS 9.

Instructions. The following words are frequently placed – or collocated – together. Can you match up each word/phrase in List 1 with its appropriate partner in List 2? (See also “Definitions 3” for further work on these words!)

List 1:

1.) Media

2.) Collateral

3.) Blinding

4.) Gritty

5.) Chinese

6.) Cheeky

7.) Blonde

8.) Abject

9.) Panic

10.) Presiding

List 2:

a.) Judge

b.) Bombshell/bimbo

c.) Monkey

d.) Circus

e.) Poverty

f.) Whispers

g.) Stricken

h.) Headache

i.) Performance

j.) Damage

COLLOCATIONS 10.

Instructions. The following words are frequently placed – or collocated – together. Can you match up each word/phrase in List 1 with its appropriate partner in List 2? (See also “Definitions 3” for further work on these words!)

List 1:

1.) Feasibility

2.) Nether

3.) Clean

4.) Not/A happy

5.) A rip roaring

6.) Bear the

7.) Run a

8.) Inadmissible

9.) Interim

10.) Dream

List 2:

a.) Regions

b.) Ticket

c.) Bunny

d.) Leader

e.) Brunt (of sth)

f.) Bath

g.) Evidence

h.) Success

i.) Study

j.) Shaven

DEFINITIONS 1.

Instructions. The following definitions exercise is based on some of the words used in the first three collocation exercises – situated some pages earlier in the book. Can you match up the phrases with their definitions?

PHRASES:

- 1.) An *agent provocateur* is...
- 2.) If you give someone *carte blanche*, it means...
- 3.) A *dab hand* (at something) is...
- 4.) *Demarcation lines* are...
- 5.) One's *formative years* are...
- 6.) A *sea change* is...
- 7.) If you give (someone or) something *scant regard*, it means...
- 8.) A *shanty town* is...
- 9.) A *skeleton crew* is...
- 10.) A *stalking horse* is...

DEFINITIONS:

- a.) you barely pay enough attention to (them)/it.
- b.) usually in one's childhood – and refer to the shaping of one's character or ways, etc.
- c.) boundaries or limits, especially used to separate (previously) warring factions or, by trade unions, to single out work for different trades.
- d.) you let them do virtually whatever they want – or, at any rate, certainly give them discretionary powers!
- e.) a period of notable alteration (in one's fortunes, etc).

- f.) a collection of rather run-down huts and other such residences.
- g.) the minimum number of people required to run a ship or some other enterprise.
- h.) a person who tempts others into putting their covert beliefs into overt action!
- i.) a phrase used to describe someone who is very practical – and especially good at things like decorating.
- j.) a political candidate not seriously expected to win but put forth to conceal the candidacy of another person or to draw votes from a rival. (May be also interpreted more literally – when to do with hunting.)

DEFINITIONS 2.

Instructions. The following definitions exercise is based on some of the words used in the collocation exercises 5, 6 and 7 – situated some pages earlier in the book. This time, can you say which of the two definitions provided for each phrase is the true one (and which the false)? Simply tick the right definition!

1.) A *booby prize* is...

- a.) the money required for special reconstructive surgery on a woman's breasts.
- b.) a special prize sometimes given to whoever finishes last in a race or competition.

2.) *Derring-do* is...

- a.) a descriptive phrase used to describe those who have the initiative and courage to do difficult things.
- b.) a descriptive phrase used to describe those who are rather foolhardy and incautious.

3.) An *appreciation society* is...

- a.) simply a synonymous term for a fan club.
- b.) specifically a phrase used to describe those who are very content with the way things are in society.

4.) *Down under* is...

- a.) a descriptive phrase used to describe those who are deceased and buried.
- b.) another name for/a way of referring to Australia.

5.) Someone who has *Stole away* has...

- a.) committed many burglaries over a long period of time.
- b.) quietly and secretly left from somewhere.

6.) An *inveterate liar* is...

- a.) a young person who lies a lot – i.e. not a “veteran”.
- b.) someone who is very practised in the art of lying.

7.) Someone who has a *voracious appetite* is...

- a.) very greedy.
- b.) very "picky" or choosy about what they will eat.

8.) *Incontrovertible evidence* is...

- a.) the type of evidence which can easily be contradicted/proved wrong or false.
- b.) Indisputable proof.

9.) If somebody *wrests control* from somebody else, they...

- a.) give that person a vacation or holiday.
- b.) steal their control or autonomy from them.

10.) A *floating voter* is...

- a.) one who is entitled to vote from overseas/whilst they are abroad.
- b.) One who has not yet made up or keeps changing their mind about who they are going to vote for.

DEFINITIONS 3.

Instructions. The following definitions exercise is based on some of the words used in the collocation exercises 9 and 10 – situated some pages earlier in the book. This time, can you say which of the *three* definitions provided for each phrase is a true one (and which are false)? Again, simply tick the definition which you think is the true one! (This exercise is meant for fun as much as anything else!)

1.) A/The *Media circus* is...

- a.) a derogatory term for the media.
- b.) a term for the public relations department which circuses have and need to function properly.
- c.) the name of a special circus once set up by some ex media men – now a synonym for entertainment of the highest standards.

2.) *Collateral damage* is...

- a.) a term used to describe the damage done to one's arteries due to eating too much fatty food.
- b.) a rather euphemistic phrase for secondary damage to buildings or the victims of a bomb or missile that has gone astray.
- c.) a phrase used to describe the damage done to one's financial resources – or collateral – when there is a fall on the stock markets.

3.) *Chinese whispers* are...

- a.) a rare food delicacy, which should be eaten cold.
- b.) false rumours – or rumour mongering.
- c.) the incomprehensible mutterings of a fool – or a way of referring to them/anything that can't be clearly distinguished or understood.

4.) A *cheeky monkey* is...

- a.) a derogatorily descriptive term for anyone who is very cheeky indeed.
- b.) a large wager/bet on a horse race.
- c.) a term for a monkey who is an outsider – or rebel – from a group of monkeys kept in a zoo.

5.) A *blonde bombshell* is...

- a.) a particularly dangerous unexploded bomb.
- b.) a type of Belgian beer.
- c.) a descriptive term for a very attractive blonde-haired woman.

6.) A *blonde bimbo*, on the other hand, is...

- a.) an easily defused bomb.
- b.) a type of Scottish beer.
- c.) a derogatory term for a very attractive but rather “dumb” blonde-haired woman.

7.) *Abject poverty* is...

- a.) complete and utter poverty.
- b.) poverty that is subject to severe criticism – or is objectionable.
- c.) relatively minor poverty.

8.) If somebody gets hit in the *nether regions* they are...

- a.) physically assaulted by a Dutchman.
- b.) physically hurt somewhere in the lower part of their body (often the most painful part imaginable)!
- c.) robbed of their most precious possessions, which they will never ever see again.

9.) A *happy bunny* is...

- a.) a very happy rabbit!
- b.) a slang term for a type of illegal drug.
- c.) a descriptive term to describe a person who is very happy/content.

10.) The phrase/term *dream ticket* refers to...

- a.) possession of an FA Cup final ticket to see one's favourite team play at Wembley.
- b.) having an appointment with a psychologist.
- c.) the pairing of two ideal partners/candidates in a business or an election respectively.

DEFINITIONS 4.

Instructions. The following definitions exercise is based on some of the words used in the Word Formations exercise “Miscellaneous 3”. Can you match up the words with their definitions? This time the definitions come first...

DEFINITIONS:

- 1.) To affirm – or state as fact – is...
- 2.) To reduce something – especially the number of employees in a company, or some other business activity – is...
- 3.) To stop someone on his or her journey to somewhere is...
- 4.) To stretch one's head out to try to see something – especially to be nosy – is...
- 5.) A large of queue of traffic might also be referred to as...
- 6.) A small roofed shelter – especially the place where football managers and substitutes sit during a football match – is called...
- 7.) The American term for a fridge is...
- 8.) A feeble, frightened sound – such as a dog might make when it is afraid – may be called...
- 9.) A type of game on a double board with draughts and dice is...
- 10.) An abrupt, single ringing type sound – such as made by a rifle bullet in flight – might be described by the word...

WORDS:

- a.) a *tailback*.
- b.) *ping*.
- c.) to *waylay* them.
- d.) to *aver*.

- e.) a *whimper*.
- f.) to *downsize*.
- g.) *backgammon*.
- h.) to *rubberneck*.
- i.) a *dugout*.
- j.) an *icebox*.

DEFINITIONS 5.

Instructions. The following definitions exercise is based, once more, on some of the words used in the Word Formations exercise “Miscellaneous 3”. This time, can you say which of the two definitions provided for each phrase is the true one (and which the false)? Simply tick the right definition.

- 1.) To *clampdown* on something is...
 - a.) to become stricter about that thing.
 - b.) to lock the wheels of somebody's car so that it cannot be moved – usually because it is illegally parked.
- 2.) A *houseboat* is...
 - a.) a special boat in the shape of a house.
 - b.) a boat which is specially designed to be lived in/treated as one's permanent residence.
- 3.) A *castaway* is...
 - a.) a term for a very long casting of one's fishing line into the sea from the seashore.
 - b.) a name for a person who has been shipwrecked and is alone on an island somewhere.
- 4.) The word *dateline* refers to...
 - a.) a chat-up line one might use on a first date!
 - b.) a line partly along the meridian 180 degrees from Greenwich, England, east and west of which the date differs; or a line in a newspaper or document to show its date and place of writing.
- 5.) To be *spellbound* is...
 - a.) to be as if under the influence of a magic spell.
 - b.) To be unable to spell words correctly.
- 6.) If you are in the *vanguard*, you are...
 - a.) in the lead, or at the head of an organisation or movement.
 - b.) on your way to prison!

7.) A *gangway* is...

- a.) the typical method used by a gang of hooligans or thugs.
- b.) a passage – such as between a row of seats – along which one may move.

8.) If someone is described as being *peerless*, they are considered...

- a.) unequalled in their particular field or activity.
- b.) particularly short-sighted.

9.) A *mandate* refers to...

- a.) a giving of authority.
- b.) a secret meeting between two homosexual men.

10.) A *yardstick* is...

- a.) a special measuring device.
- b.) a pole to guide the growth of plants.

11.) An *ion* is...

- a.) an electrically charged particle.
- b.) to keep a lookout for something.

DEFINITIONS 6.

Instructions. The following definitions exercise is based on some of the words used in the Word Formations exercise “Miscellaneous 4”. Can you match up the words with their definitions?

WORDS:

- 1.) A *flapjack* is...
- 2.) A *glow-worm* is...
- 3.) A *jailbird* is...
- 4.) An idea that is described as being *madcap* is thought to be...
- 5.) A *tenon* is...
- 6.) A *backwater*, metaphorically speaking, is...
- 7.) *Turnover* is...
- 8.) The word *endgame* refers to...
- 9.) A *zither* is...
- 10.) A *wisecrack* is...

DEFINITIONS:

- a.) a smart, pithy remark (often used sarcastically).
- b.) a quiet place of intellectual stagnation.
- c.) wildly/insanely impulsive.
- d.) a person who is regularly in and out of prison.
- e.) a type of insect which shines in the dark.
- f.) a type of pancake/oat cake popular in American.

- g.) a type of musical instrument – with a flat sound box covered by strings and played horizontally.
- h.) the amount of business done during the course of a year – the amount bought and sold, etc.
- i.) the final stages of something – usually used with reference to chess.
- j.) a type of joint used in carpentry to join two pieces of wood.

DEFINITIONS 7.

Instructions. The following definitions exercise is based, again, on some of the words used in the Word Formations exercise “Miscellaneous 4”. Can you, this time, complete each definition by choosing one of the words listed below? (There may be some initial overlap here, but all the answers must be accounted for in the end – something that is only obtainable if done with care.)

Arrested,	Attention,	Family,	Irritating,	Mind,
Nous,	Responsibility,	Shooting,	Singer,	Stupid.

- 1.) If someone says the *onus* is on someone else to do something, they mean it is that other person's _____.
- 2.) If someone *earmarks* something, they single it out for special _____.
- 3.) If something is *irksome*, it is rather _____.
- 4.) If someone does something through *caprice*, they change their _____ very quickly and unaccountably.
- 5.) If someone gets *nabbed*, it probably means they've been _____ or caught for doing some misdeed.
- 6.) A *tenor* (as a noun) is a type of _____ - usually associated with opera.
- 7.) A *marksman* is very accurate in _____.
- 8.) The word *lineage* refers to one's _____ roots.
- 9.) If someone is *streetwise*, they have a lot of _____ - or are very clever in rather worldly/practical matters!
- 10.) A *jackass* is a rather derogatory term for someone who is thought rather _____ - or like the animal of this name.

DEFINITIONS 8.

Instructions. The following definitions exercise is based on some of the words used in the Word Formations exercise “Miscellaneous 5”. This time, can you say which of the two definitions provided for each phrase is the true one (and which the false)? Simply tick the right definition.

1.) A *pipedream* is...

- a.) an unrealistic hope or ambition.
- b.) an hallucinogenic experience caused by taking drugs – especially opium.

2.) *Carat* is...

- a.) a measurement of weight for gold or precious stones.
- b.) a genetically modified “carrot”.

3.) The word *genteel* describes...

- a.) something upper class and stylishly delicate.
- b.) a seafood delicacy – mainly composed of “eels” – also particularly eaten by the upper classes (or gentry).

4.) A *fanfare* is...

- a.) a short, showy or ceremonious sounding of trumpets, bugles, etc.
- b.) a technical term for the entrance fee to a concert.

5.) A *tonsure* is...

- a.) the operation to remove one's tonsils.
- b.) a bald patch – such as that found on top of a monk's head.

6.) *Afterburner* is...

- a.) the effect felt after a particularly potent curry.
- b.) part of a spaceship's engine.

7.) *Potash* is...

- a.) an alkaline chemical.
- b.) the mark left on the ground after a fire has taken place there.

8.) A *tor* is...

- a.) a rocky hilltop.
- b.) a unit of pressure in the atmosphere.

9.) *Quicksilver* is another name for...

- a.) molten silver.
- b.) mercury – (a metal frequently used in thermometers.)

10.) A *silverback* is...

- a.) a type of gorilla.
- b.) a book that is selling well – and almost, but not quite, a best seller.

11.) A *scam* is...

- a.) a type of fish.
- b.) an illegal money making scheme – or one that cheats people out of their money.

12.) The word *tad* signifies...

- a.) a very small amount.
- b.) a very small tadpole.

13.) The word *wallflower* describes...

- a.) a person who is very shy (especially a woman without a partner at a dance).
- b.) A very sturdy type of plant.

14.) A *quarterback* is...

- a.) a magazine which comes out every three months.
- b.) a position on the field of play in American football.

15.) The word *backdrop* describes...

- a.) a move in American football – in which the ball is kicked behind the opposing teams defenders.
- b.) the scenery found typically at the back of the stage at a theatre performance.

DEFINITIONS 9.

Instructions. The following definitions exercise is based on some of the words used in the Word Formations exercise “Miscellaneous 6”. This time, can you say which of the three definitions provided for each phrase is the true one (and which are false)? Simply tick the right definition.

1.) A *by(e)law* is...

- a.) a court order.
- b.) a local government or corporation law.
- c.) a law governing the terms upon which a couple can split up – or divorce.

2.) An *egghead* is...

- a.) a derogatory term for someone who is thought to be over intellectual.
- b.) a name for that end of an egg which should be pointing upwards – by which it should be stored.
- c.) a derogatory term for someone who likes eating lots of eggs!

3.) A *groundhog* is...

- a.) a type of animal – a marmot – found in America.
- b.) an American word to describe when one has had a very difficult day.
- c.) a type of nut eaten by pigs.

4.) An *outcrop* is...

- a.) a word to describe vegetables that are grown outside – and not in a greenhouse.
- b.) a projecting piece of rock.
- c.) a type of haircut.

5.) A *nomad* is...

- a.) someone who stays very calm.
- b.) someone who naturally wanders from place to place.
- c.) a term to indicate one's second or family name.

6.) To *tailgate* someone is...

- a.) to investigate them very closely.
- b.) to provide them with a back entrance to their apartment.
- c.) to drive too close behind another vehicle.

7.) A *pitchfork* is...

- a.) an event at the Highland games in Scotland.
- b.) a long pronged fork for moving hay and such things.
- c.) a particularly big lump of turf sticking up on the field where a sport's event is taking place – that needs to be flattened/forced back into the ground.

8.) A *silverfish* is...

- a.) a silvery coloured insect – such as one might typically find in one's bathroom.
- b.) a Roman coin.
- c.) a type of shark.

9.) *Silverside* is...

- a.) a Roman coin.
- b.) a type of joint of beef.
- c.) a very talkative person.

10.) A *warlock* is...

- a.) a state of stalemate in a battle.
- b.) a name for a male witch.
- c.) a type of nut.

DEFINITIONS 10.

Instructions. Match up the phrases in list one with their approximate definitions/explanations in list two.

List 1:

- 1.) To hanker for.
- 2.) To plump for.
- 3.) To take stock of.
- 4.) To be in cahoots with.
- 5.) To hedge.
- 6.) To churn out.
- 7.) To loaf around.
- 8.) To prattle on about sth.
- 9.) To fob sb off.
- 10.) To get short shrift.

List 2:

- a.) To settle for/to choose.
- b.) To laze about.
- c.) To delay/prevaricate (be overcautious).
- d.) To be dealt with in a curt/abrupt manner.
- e.) To mass produce/produce without much effort or thought.
- f.) To long for/desire strongly.
- g.) To talk endlessly, usually in a meaningless way, about something.
- h.) To consider carefully/to assess one's situation.
- i.) To be in league with/secretly in collusion or partnership with.
- j.) To (try to) trick or delude somebody (in a way that implies the other person is easily fooled)!

DEFINITIONS 11.**Animals (1).**

Instructions. Complete each definition by placing the appropriate animal in the spaces provided. The first one has been done for you – as an example. (This exercise, and the one that follows it, is based on some animal based exercises used in my very first work)

Bee,	Bird,	Bug x 2,	Cat x 3,	Cod,	Dog x 3
Elephant,	Fly,	Fox,	Frog,	Hog.	

- 1.) To make a Beeline for somewhere or something is to go directly there, without any deviation.
- 2.) Another name for the small hole in the ground that troops sometimes have to dig for themselves, usually either to hide or to sleep in, is a _____ hole.
- 3.) Someone who is frequently in prison might well be called/known as a jail _____.
- 4.) Something that is _____ ine in proportion is very big – like this animal indeed!
- 5.) Windows that are _____ blown are very dirty – covered in tiny little spots of grease and grime.
- 6.) A very sharp turn in direction, usually the one a road takes, might be referred to as a _____ leg.
- 7.) A _____ nap is a quick sleep.
- 8.) If something is described as being a bit of a _____ bear, it's rather a nuisance/Something that is rather a nuisance and hangs on one's mind might be described as being this.
- 9.) If someone or something is _____ ging you, they/it are getting on your nerves.

- 10.) _____ calls are shouts of disapproval (– usually associated with a very bad performance at the theatre)!
- 11.) To be _____ -marched is to be forcibly made to walk somewhere even if one doesn't want to – often by having one's arms being grabbed hold of on either side.
- 12.) Someone who is very spiteful and sarcastic might be said to be rather _____ ty.
- 13.) If someone says what a load of _____ swallopp, they think that something – perhaps, typically, what someone else is saying – is utter nonsense.
- 14.) A general _____ sbody is a phrase used to describe someone who has to do all the worst jobs/or all the work.
- 15.) If someone says what a load of _____ wash they think something is utter nonsense.
- 16.) If somebody is very persistent in their efforts to achieve something, you might say that they are being very _____ ged.

DEFINITIONS 12.

Animals (2).

Instructions. Complete each definition, once more, by placing the appropriate animal in the spaces provided. The first one has been done for you – as an example.

Ass, Cat, Dog x 3, Fox, Goose, Hare, Hen,
Horse x 2, Mulish, Nit, Pig, Sheep, Turtle.

- 1.) Something that frightens you very much might well give you _____ flesh.
- 2.) Someone who is rather ashamed of themselves and shows it might be said to have a hang _____ expression.
- 3.) A _____ brained scheme is one that is completely crazy!
- 4.) A _____ pecked husband is one whose wife domineers him.
- 5.) Boisterous mucking about/playing around might also be referred to as _____ play.
- 6.) Someone who makes a complete fool of themselves might be called a jack_____.
- 7.) Someone who is being rather _____ is being rather stubborn.
- 8.) Someone who is _____ -picking is very fussy about minor, unimportant details.
- 9.) If you are more crafty and cunning than someone else, it might be said that you out_____ them.
- 10.) If someone is very stubborn indeed, they might be described as being rather _____ -headed.

- 11.) Someone who is very bashful or, alternatively, feel ashamed of themselves about something they've done, might be described as being rather _____ ish.
- 12.) There is a type of jumper with a high neck called a _____ neck.
- 13.) A team that is expected to lose might be called the under_____ s.
- 14.) A watch _____ committee is one that keeps an eye on things – or at least is supposed to!
- 15.) A wild_____ strike is one where the workforce leave their jobs very suddenly and unexpectedly.
- 16.) Someone who is very hard working might be described as a work_____.

SYNONYMS 1.

1 of 2 – or 50- 50. *Instructions.* The following synonyms exercise is based on words used in the Word Formations exercise “Verbs”(– placed some pages earlier in the book). Simply place an “X” by the phrase which you think is NOT a synonym of the key phrase in bold at the top of each list. The first one has been done for you – as an example.

1.) To ally oneself

To affiliate

To separate “X”

2.) To encapsulate

To expatriate

To summarise

3.) To foreclose

To bestow

To repossess

4.) To converse

To have a chinwag

To sulk

5.) To dabble

To eschew

To potter about with

6.) To extradite

To banish

To usher in

7.) To default

To cough up

To welsh on

8.) To adjudge

To adjudicate

To keep mum

9.) To dislodge

To oust

To pinion

10.) To bemoan

To rejoice

To lament

11.) To ascribe

To attribute

To disown

12.) To partake

To join in

To exclude

SYNONYMS 2.

1 of 3! Instructions. The following synonyms exercise is based on some of the words used in the Word Formation exercises “Nouns 1 and 2”. Simply place an “X” by the word or phrase that you think is NOT a synonym of the key word/phrase in bold at the top of each list. The first one has been done for you – as an example.

1.) Abhor

Detest

Loathe

Venerate **“X”**

2.) Audacious

Craven

Daring

Intrepid

3.) Allege

Aver

Claim

Retract

4.) Habit

Caprice

Proclivity

Wont

5.) Habitation

Domicile

Residence

Sojourn

6.) Habitué

Patron

Regular

Wayfarer

7.) Intervene

Arbitrate

Intercede

Sit on the fence

8.) Mature

Callow

Mellow

Ripe

9.) Adhere

Cohere

Slacken

Stick

10.) Compilation

Anthology

Corpora

Oddity

11.) To court

To hang one's hat on

To set one's cap at

To woo

12.) Crude

Genteel

Smutty

Vulgar

13.) Directive

Edict

Exoneration

Order

14.) Disclosure

Divulgence

Revelation

Secretion

15.) Divine

Celestial

Demonic

Sacred

SYNONYMS 3.

1 of 3 again. Instructions. The following synonyms exercise is based on some of the words used in the Word Formations exercise “Nouns 3”. Simply place an “X” by the word that you think is NOT a synonym of the key word in bold at the top of each list. The first one has been done for you – as an example.

1.) Atrocities

Barbarities

Charitable deeds **“X”**

Monstrosities

2.) Blueprint

Improvisation

Plan

Prototype

3.) Deprive

Expropriate

Proffer

Wrest

4.) Extravaganza

Pageant

Side-show

Spectacle

5.) Impoverished

Affluent

Destitute

Indigent

6.) Regalia

Adornments

Commonalties

Frippery

7.) Insight

Acumen

Ineptitude

Wisdom

8.) Surety

Collateral

Dicey

Indemnity

9.) Totalitarianism

Autocracy

Democracy

Dictatorship

10.) Twosome

Duo

Pair

Trio

11.) Unanimity

Accord

Consensus

Dissension

SYNONYMS 4.

1 of 4! Instructions. The following synonyms exercise is based on some of the words used in the Word Formations exercise “Nouns 4”. Simply place an “X” by the word that you think is NOT a synonym of the key word in bold at the top of each list. The first one has been done for you – as an example.

1.) Anonymous

Eminent “X”

Incognito

Unidentified

Unknown

2.) Banditry

Brigandry

Compliance

Lawlessness

Sedition

3.) Consistency

Congruity

Dependability

Uniformity

Volatility

4.) Eventuality

Contingency

Happening

Inevitability

Possibility

5.) Expansion

Amplification

Diminution

Distension

Embellishment

6.) Kidding

Jesting

Joking

Pulling your leg

Smarting

7.) Enlargement

Blow-up
Large print
Magnification
Miniaturisation

8.) Livelihood

Penury
Subsistence
Sustenance
Upkeep

9.) Strangle

Aerate
Choke
Stifle
Throttle

10.) Stranglehold

Domination
Monopoly
Morsel
Supremacy

11.) Turbulent

Choppy
Undulating
Unsettled
Velvety

SYNONYMS 5.

1 in 3. Instructions. The following synonyms exercise is based on some of the words used in the Word Formations exercise “Nouns 5”. This time, place an “X” by the word or phrase that you think IS a synonym of the key word/phrase in bold at the top of each list. The first one has been done for you – as an example.

1.) Condolences

Commiserations “X”

2.) Environs

Picture

Enmity

Scene

Insults

Snapshot

Slights

Surrounds

3.) Foursome

Quadrangle

4.) Intermediary

Arbitrator

Quartet

Eccentric

Quintet

Individualist

5.) Demarcation lines

Boundaries

6.) Protectorate

Embargo

Expanses

Haven

Oceans

Screen

7.) Reactionary

Conservative

8.) Rejoinder

Acquiescence

Diehard

Endorsement

Insurrectionist

Retort

9.) Onslaught

Attack

Flight

Withdrawal

10.) Pretext

Bona fide

Cogent

Ruse

11.) Trailblazer

Conservative

Innovator

Stick-in-the-mud

12.) Vehemence

Ardour

Placidity

Quietude

SYNONYMS 6.

1 in 3. Instructions. The following synonyms exercise is based on some of the words used in the Word Formations exercise “Nouns 6”. This time, place an “X” by the word or phrase that you think IS a synonym of the key word/phrase in bold at the top of each list. The first one has been done for you – as an example.

1.) In the ascendancy

Down in the dumps

Holding sway **“X”**

Losing grip

2.) Cessation

Continuance

Let-up

Protraction

3.) Expulsion

Aggrandisement

Drumming out

Preferment

4.) Guarantor

Profligate

Underwriter

Wastrel

5.) Heiress

Itinerant

Legatee

Vagabond

6.) Rigidity

Flexibility

Malleability

Tautness

7.) Seclusion

Isolation

Prevalence

Renown

8.) Under sedation

Conscious

Subconscious

Unconscious

9.) Sedatives

Narcotic

Stimulants

Tranquillisers

10.) Deficient

Ample

Copious

Defective

11.) Protuberance

Growth

Inversion

Antithesis

SYNONYMS 7.

1 in 4. Instructions. The following synonyms exercise is based on some of the words used in the Word Formation exercises “Adjectives 1 and 2”. Once again, place an “X” by the word or phrase that you think IS a synonym of the key word/phrase in bold at the top of each list. The first one has been done for you – as an example.

1.) Anatomical structure

Blueprint

2.) Indeterminate

Equivocal

Scheme

Unstipulated

Skeleton “X”

Vague

Stratagem

Verifiable

3.) Droll

Clownish

4.) Drudgery

Glee

Risible

Laborious nature

Staid

Monotony

Waggish

Skivvying

5.) Militaristic

Combative

6.) Peripheral detail

Ancillary matter

Martial

Crux of the matter

Pacifistic

Minor detail

Soldierly

Subsidiary point

7.) Pivotal matter

A bagatelle

8.) Symptomatic

Characteristic of

A cornerstone

Evidence of

A kingpin

Indicative of

A linchpin

Witness of

9.) Wearisome

Draining
Galvanising
Humdrum
Trying

10.) Clammy

Damp
Humid
Searing
Sticky

11.) Collective

Aggregate
Cloistered
Concerted
Cumulative

12.) Corrective

Curative
Regressive
Reparative
Restorative

13.) Discretionary

Elective
Imperative
Non-mandatory
Volitional

14.) Incidental

Delineated
Fortuitous
Random
Unsystematic

15.) Wilful

Complaisant
Intransigent
Mulish
Obdurate

SYNONYMS 8.

Instructions. The following synonyms exercise is based on some of the words used in the Word Formation exercises “Miscellaneous 1 and 2”. Simply match up the words in List 1 with the appropriate synonym in List 2.

List 1:

1.) Discreditably

2.) Pointedly

3.) Entrapment

4.) Foursquare

5.) Disgruntled

6.) Displaced

7.) Conversationalist

8.) Misapprehension

9.) Conjoined

10.) Distraught

List 2:

a.) Upset

b.) Resolute

c.) Deliberately

d.) Combined

e.) Talker

f.) Delusion

g.) Ignominiously

h.) Capture

i.) Ousted

j.) Dissatisfied

SYNONYMS 9.

Multiple Choice. Instructions. Replace the word in bold in each of the sentences below with a synonym – choosing “a”, “b”, “c” or “d” as appropriate. (Only one of these choices is a suitable synonym of the given word. The others are rather all antonyms!) Tick the word which you think is the correct one – be careful to make sure that your tick clearly indicates your selection!

1.) When questioned about allegations of bribery, the Prime Minister gave a **brusque** reply.

- a.) discursive
- b.) protracted
- c.) terse
- d.) verbose

2.) I find Jim rather a **cantankerous** man personally speaking!

- a.) affable
- b.) amiable
- c.) crabby
- d.) genial

3.) The doctor told his patient that their disease was **congenital**.

- a.) catching
- b.) communicable
- c.) inborn
- d.) pestilential

4.) Someone should **castigate** Susan for breaking the window!

- a.) applaud
- b.) extol
- c.) laud
- d.) upbraid

5.) The police asked Alan if he could **corroborate** Sarah’s story.

- a.) confute
- b.) refute
- c.) rebut
- d.) verify

6.) Treasurer's of all people shouldn't **embezzle** funds!

- a.) bestow
- b.) confer
- c.) endow
- d.) misappropriate

7.) One shouldn't use fatty substances on burns – which will only **exacerbate** the wound.

- a.) aggravate
- b.) assuage
- c.) mollify
- d.) palliate

8.) Richard has done an **exhaustive** study of idioms.

- a.) comprehensive
- b.) cursory
- c.) desultory
- d.) perfunctory

9.) Should we **exonerate** the author for creating such a difficult test?

- a.) absolve
- b.) berate
- c.) chide
- d.) censure

10.) **Intermittent** gunfire could be heard in the suburbs.

- a.) heavy
- b.) loud
- c.) powerful
- d.) sporadic

11.) With the benefit of **hindsight**, I'm sure we'd all do things differently!

- a.) foreknowledge
- b.) memory
- c.) reflection
- d.) remembrance

SYNOMYS 10.

Multiple Choice. Instructions. Replace the word in bold, once more, in each of the sentences below with a synonym – choosing “a”, “b”, “c” or “d” as appropriate. (Only one of these choices is a suitable synonym of the given word. The others are rather all antonyms!) Tick the word which you think is the correct one – be careful to make sure that your tick clearly indicates your selection!

1.) Gerald strikes me as being a very **intelligent** person.

- a.) doltish
- b.) inane
- c.) moronic
- d.) perspicacious

2.) Yes, he does seem to be quite **undiscerning** with his comments.

- a.) astute
- b.) aware
- c.) nescient
- d.) percipient

3.) I find most of what Roger says, on the other hand, rather **uninteresting**, I'm afraid!

- a.) compelling
- b.) gripping
- c.) humdrum
- d.) riveting

4.) He can come across as being a rather **lively** person.

- a.) bubbly
- b.) dull
- c.) fuddy-duddy
- d.) staid

5.) Kasia is quite a **sour looking** girl, don't you think?

- a.) alluring
- b.) comely
- c.) fetching
- d.) sullen

- 6.) Yes, and almost as **stupid** as Dorota!
- a.) bird-brained
 - b.) ebullient
 - c.) effervescent
 - d.) vibrant
- 7.) It's probably true to say that you need to have a **frightening** character if you wish to make horror films.
- a.) harum-scarum
 - b.) meditative
 - c.) pensive
 - d.) ruminative
- 8.) It's probably also true to say that you mustn't be too **careful** if you wish to be a gambler!
- a.) circumspect
 - b.) devil-may-care
 - c.) foolhardy
 - d.) precipitate
- 9.) I **deliberately** didn't invite Jim to the party, as I most definitely did not want him there – but don't go telling anyone about it, will you? Especially not Jim!
- a.) ad lib
 - b.) extempore
 - c.) off the cuff
 - d.) premeditatedly
- 10.) Discipline in the school was described as becoming rather **slipshod** at our last general meeting – but I'm glad to say things have improved! (*This time, just for a change, choose the antonym!*)
- a.) slapdash
 - b.) sleazy
 - c.) sloppy
 - d.) slovenly

SOME IDIOMS AND OTHER PHRASES.

GUN CONTROL (1).

Guns, guns, guns! Instructions. Can you match up the numbered idioms/colloquialisms below with their appropriately lettered explanation?

1.) If you spike somebody's guns, you... (=s letter)

_____?

2.) If you go down with all guns blazing, you... (=s letter)

_____?

3.) If you are gunning for somebody, you... (=s letter)

_____?

4.) If you jump the gun, you... (=s letter)

_____?

5.) If you bring up the big guns, you... (=s letter)

_____?

6.) If you go great guns, you... (=s letter)

_____?

7.) If you stick to your guns, you... (=s letter)

_____?

8.) If you hold a pistol to somebody's head, you... (=s letter)

_____?

9.) If you call someone a son of a gun, you... (=s letter)

_____?

10.) If you are at a shotgun wedding, you... (=s letter)

_____?

a.) do something very well at great speed.

b.) begin/anticipate something too quickly – like the beginning of a race, for instance.

- c.) are virtually forcing them to do something, even though they probably don't want to.
- d.) resolutely refuse to change your mind/defend your position against all opposition.
- e.) spoil their plans.
- f.) are out to get them/plotting revenge on them, (or, actually, in some contexts supporting them!)
- g.) are at a forced marriage.
- h.) suffer defeat but struggle all the way/keep fighting to the end.
- i.) probably don't like them – and are insulting them (though it is rather a mild insult these days!)
- j.) get the most important/influential people on your side involved in whatever it is you are doing.

GUN CONTROL (2).

Shooting! *Instructions.* Match up once more the numbered idioms/collocations below with their appropriately lettered explanation.

1.) If you have a shot at something, you... (=s letter)

?

2.) If you take a shot in the dark at something, you... (=s letter)

?

3.) If you shoot your mouth off about something, you... (=s letter)

?

4.) If you are shooting a line about something, you... (=s letter)

?

5.) If you're calling the shots, you... (=s letter)

?

6.) If you shoot from the hip, you... (=s letter)

?

7.) If your nerves are shot to pieces, you... (=’s letter)

_____?

8.) If you shoot somebody or something down in flames, you... (=’s letter) _____?

9.) If you give something your best shot, you... (=’s letter)

_____?

10.) If you get shot of something or someone, you... (=’s letter)

_____?

a.) are the one who is in charge of things.

b.) are exaggerating or lying.

c.) are a nervous wreck!

d.) try your hardest.

e.) have a go at doing it.

f.) are usually bragging (or certainly saying something you shouldn’t, in a loud way)!

g.) get rid of that thing or person.

h.) destroy someone else’s plans/ideas, etc. – usually with particularly effective/telling criticism.

i.) take a wild guess about it.

j.) speak directly and frankly about something.

GUN CONTROL (3).

Shooting! Instructions. Match up once more the numbered idioms/ collocations below with their appropriately lettered explanation.

1.) If something is like a shot in the arm for you, it is... (=’s letter)

_____?

2.) A Parthian shot is... (=’s letter)

_____?

3.) A trouble-shooter is... (=’s letter)

_____?

4.) A pot shot is... (=’s letter)

_____?

5.) A shot across the bows is... (=’s letter)

_____?

6.) The whole shooting match is... (=’s letter)

_____?

7.) A long shot is... (=’s letter)

_____?

8.) A big shot is... (=’s letter)

_____?

9.) A shooting star is... (=’s letter)

_____?

10.) Doing something like a shot, is... (=’s letter)

_____?

- a.) to do something very quickly – without any delay.
- b.) a cutting remark made, or something else done, by someone on leaving - which gives no opportunity for retaliation.
- c.) a shot at an innocent target/a sudden shot from nowhere.
- d.) another way of saying “everything” (though this usually refers to some form of argument or struggle.)

- e.) not a real shot at someone/something but a warning signal of some kind.
- f.) an expert – usually in industrial or diplomatic matters – who is called in to sort things out.
- g.) a boost to your spirits (- unless it is literally an injection for medical purposes).
- h.) an outside/unlikely possibility.
- i.) another, rather colloquial, term for a very important or powerful person.
- j.) another term for a meteorite – specifically one that has entered the Earth's atmosphere.

GUN CONTROL (4).

Various. Multiple Choice. *Instructions.* Complete the following idioms/ collocations by choosing one answer only – “a”, “b”, “c”, or “d”. (Place the letter of your choice in the space provided.)

1.) Someone who shoots at anything on the slightest pretext might be described as being trigger _____.

- a.) happy
- b.) loose
- c.) free
- d.) prone

2.) Thanks! Your offer of a cup of tea is _____ on target - exactly what I need!

- a.) shot
- b.) middle
- c.) just
- d.) bang

3.) I'm not sure whether to invest my money on the Japanese or American stock market. I think I'll _____ fire on it until I see how things go – it won't do any harm to wait a while.

- a.) hold
- b.) hang
- c.) put
- d.) delay

4.) Although they had him surrounded, the police decided to be very careful with the bank robber as he was believed to be armed to the _____. It was even thought he had several grenades on him!

- a.) eyes
- b.) knees
- c.) shoulder
- d.) teeth

5.) I was very annoyed when Bob told me he had accidentally told everyone my secret, but I felt I better _____ the bullet for the sake of our friendship. Nevertheless, It wasn't an easy thing to have to endure.

- a.) squeeze

- b.) throw
- c.) bite
- d.) unload

6.) If you get rid of something lock, stock and _____ you get rid of absolutely everything.

- a.) sight
- b.) bullet
- c.) barrel
- d.) silencer

7.) First the flu, then a sprained ankle and now a broken arm! My, you have been in the _____, haven't you! Still, you're bound to be healthy again soon.

- a.) battle
- b.) wars
- c.) onslaught
- d.) fighting

8.) The police decided to ban the protest march as they were worried it might _____ off a chain reaction leading to further violence. There had already been several clashes between rival groups and the slightest thing could start the troubles anew.

- a.) shoot
- b.) tank
- c.) trigger
- d.) launch

9.) The boss is in a very bad mood today. Why is he on the _____ this time?

- a.) warpath
- b.) battlepath
- c.) march
- d.) flightpath

10.) The news that the factory was to close down came like a _____. Nobody was prepared for it.

- a.) missile
- b.) bombshell
- c.) exocet
- d.) tank

Health.

Instructions. Choose the non-synonymous phrase or odd word out in each of the following lists of words – which are generally connected with the topic of “health”. (The first list has been done for you – with the odd phrase out being “Hot under the collar”, which refers to someone getting angry or becoming irritated rather than being ill or poorly. Other explanations are provided with the answers at the back of the book!)

- 1.) Poorly; **Hot under the collar**; Off colour; Under the weather.
- 2.) Below par; Out of sorts; In a cold sweat; ill.
- 3.) Unwell; Sick as a dog; Sick as a parrot; Ailing.
- 4.) Peaky; Anaemic; Ashen; Blooming.
- 5.) Pale; Wan; Pallid; Ruddy-cheeked.
- 6.) In fine fettle; Fit to drop; In good kilter; Raring to go.
- 7.) Healthy; Hale and hearty; In the pink; Run down.
- 8.) Infirm; Recuperating; As weak as a kitten; Feeble.
- 9.) Unfit; Out of kilter; Running to fat; Trim.
- 10.) Laid up; Bedridden; To have a clean bill of health; Incapacitated.
- 11.) To pull through; On the road to recovery; Convalescing; Sickening.
- 12.) Laid low by/with an illness; Struck down by/with an illness; Fall down with an illness; Go down with an illness; Fall ill.
- 13.) Bacteria; Microbe; Bud; Germ.
- 14.) Virus; Bug; Micro-organism; Germinate.
- 15.) Gravely ill; At death's door; Dead to the world; Breathing one's last.
- 16.) On top of the world; flushed; never better; looking a/to be the picture of health.
- 17.) A check up; To be hospitable; To go under the knife; To take a turn for the worse; To be on the mend. (One of these has nothing to do with medicine or health as such!)

INTELLIGENCE/STUPIDITY (1)!

Instructions. If someone is thought to be rather *intelligent*, they might be called any of the following! Can you complete each phrase by choosing one of the words listed below.

Alec(k),	Ball,	Boffin,	Button,	Clogs,
Egghead,	Flies,	Genius,	Know,	Needle,
Spark,	Trick,	There,	Whizz,	Witted.

- 1.) A bright _____.
- 2.) As bright as a _____.
- 3.) As sharp as a _____.
- 4.) All _____.
- 5.) An _____.*
- 6.) A bit of a _____. (Usually relates to scientists!)
- 7.) Clever _____.*
- 8.) Sharp _____.
- 9.) A sheer _____.
- 10.) A smart _____.*
- 11.) In the _____.**
- 12.) On the _____.**
- 13.) A _____ kid.
- 14.) Seldom misses a _____.**
- 15.) There are no _____ on him/her!**

* Usually derogatory!

** Emphasis here is, perhaps, on knowing what's going on rather than being intelligent as such.

INTELLIGENCE/STUPIDITY (2)!

Instructions. If someone is thought to be rather *unintelligent*, they might be called any of the following! Can you complete each phrase by choosing one of the words listed below.

Bricks,	Brained,	Brush,	Deck,	Home,
Knife,	Knuckle,	Neck,	Picnic,	Pig,
Planks,	Soft,	Slate/Screw,	Space,	Uptake.

- 1.) As daft as a _____!
- 2.) A _____ head!*
- 3.) Two _____ short of a load!
- 4.) Not the sharpest _____ in the drawer!
- 5.) _____ ignorant!*
- 6.) As thick as two short _____!
- 7.) Dead from the _____ up!
- 8.) The lights are on but there's no one at _____!
- 9.) Two sandwiches short of a _____!
- 10.) _____ in the head!**
- 11.) Bird _____!
- 12.) A waste of _____!
- 13.) Has a _____ loose!**
- 14.) Slow on the _____!
- 15.) Not playing with a full _____!**

* Particularly derogatory

** Suggests the person, in a derogatory way, is mentally ill.

LIFE AND DEATH (1).

Dead Easy? Instructions. Match up the numbered idioms/ collocations below, which all use the word “dead”, with their appropriately lettered explanation.

1.) If something is dead easy, it... (=’s letter)

_____?

2.) If somebody is described as being dead to the world, they... (=’s letter) _____?

3.) If somebody is described as being a dead loss at something, they... (=’s letter) _____?

4.) If something is described as being a dead cert’, it... (=’s letter)

_____?

5.) If something occurs in the dead of night, it... (=’s letter)

_____?

6.) If somebody is dead beat, they... (=’s letter)

_____?

7.) If somebody is referred to as dead wood, they... (=’s letter)

_____?

8.) If somebody is described as being dead from the neck up, they... (=’s letter) _____?

9.) If something is described as a dead letter, it... (=’s letter)

_____?

10.) If somebody is dead set on something, they... (=’s letter)

_____?

- a.) is thought to be assured. (Often used with reference to a horse winning a race.)
- b.) is very easy indeed – a bit like this example?
- c.) are thought to be rather stupid. (Derogatory!)

- d.) occurs in the wee small hours. (Normally this is regarded as being between about 1 and 3 o'clock, give or take an hour or two!)
- e.) have set their heart on (getting/doing) it.
- f.) are thought to be no longer useful – usually because they have been around too long and somehow “lost touch”.
- g.) are very tired.
- h.) are probably asleep – though possibly actually unconscious.
- i.) is an article of law that is rather outdated – or, to put it another way, it exists but is seldom put into practice.
- j.) are not thought to be very good at it.

LIFE AND DEATH (2)

Dead Easy? More definitions. Instructions. Match up the numbered idioms/collocations below, which all use the word “dead” once more, with their appropriately lettered explanation – as before/in the exercise preceding this one.

- 1.) If something is said to be dead on, it... (=’s letter)

_____?

- 2.) If something is described as dead and buried, it... (=’s letter)

_____?

- 3.) If somebody says to another person “drop dead”, they... (=’s letter)

_____?

- 4.) If somebody cuts somebody else dead, they... (=’s letter)

_____?

- 5.) If somebody says “over my dead body”, they... (=’s letter)

_____?

- 6.) If you dead head flowers, you... (=’s letter)

_____?

- 7.) If something is dead ahead, it... (=’s letter)
_____?
- 8.) If somebody is described as drop dead gorgeous, they... (=’s letter)
_____?
- 9.) A dead end job, is... (=’s letter)
_____?
- 10.) If someone describes themselves as being dead on their feet, they...
(=’s letter) _____?
- a.) are thought to be, rather colloquially, very attractive!
- b.) are feeling very tired/exhausted.
- c.) deliberately ignore them.
- d.) is thought to be very accurate. (Often used with reference to the time, or “amounts”.)
- e.) are strongly opposed to, usually, a proposed course of action.
- f.) is considered to be finished/over and done with. (Often refers to arguments that one considers should be forgotten about.)
- g.) cut the old, decaying, flowers away/off.
- h.) one without any prospects of promotion/advancement.
- i.) are probably rather angry with that person – and trying to insult them by saying that they wish they were dead!
- j.) is directly in front of you.

LIFE AND DEATH (3).

Instructions. All the following idioms/collocations relate to the fact that someone has died. Can you complete each one by choosing one of the words listed below?

Bucket,	Clogs,	Daisies,	Dust,	Feet,	Ghost,
Maker,	More,	Pass,	Snuff,	Tops.	

- 1.) This parrot is definitely dead. It is no _____! Having only bought it yesterday, I demand a refund!
- 2.) Many a gunfighter in the Wild West would eventually bite the _____ - shot down by some superior rival or enemy. What a way to live and die!
- 3.) Rather colloquially (and without showing much respect), you might say someone has died by saying they've _____ ed it!
- 4.) Careful! That electrical wire is live! If you don't watch what you're doing, you'll be pushing up the _____! (Informal!)
- 5.) I'll be six _____ under, you mean?
- 6.) My grandfather has been dead now for quite some time. He gave up the _____ several years ago. (Informal once again.)
- 7.) If someone _____ themselves, they commit suicide – to put it very colloquially and bluntly.
- 8.) A very polite way of saying someone has died is to say that they have gone to meet their _____.
- 9.) Or an equally polite way of referring to this matter is to say that they have simply _____ ed away – or gone to a better place.
- 10.) Certainly it is much more polite than to say that someone has kicked the _____!
- 11.) Or to say that someone has popped their _____!

LIFE AND DEATH (4).

True or False definitions? Instructions. All the following idioms/collocations are to do with the word “life”. All you have to do is to decide whether the definition given for each example is true or false! (Place your answer – write “True” or “False” – in the space provided at the end of each question.)

- 1.) If someone says “not on your life”, they mean mind your own business! (True or False?) _____?
- 2.) If someone were to say to you “get a life”, they mean you should have a rest! _____?
- 3.) If you’re the life and soul of a party, you help bring the party alive!
_____?
- 4.) If you can’t remember or do something for the life of you, you are saying you can’t remember/couldn’t do it even in exchange for your life.
_____?
- 5.) If you’re leading the life of Riley, you’re having a very tough time.
_____?
- 6.) If you say “such is life”, then you mean that that is just the way life is!
_____?
- 7.) If you are leading a dog’s life, you are having a very nice time indeed – thank you very much! _____?
- 8.) If you are having the time of your life, you are really enjoying yourself.
_____?
- 9.) If you’re in the prime of your life, you’re at an age when everything is at its best. _____?
- 10.) If you decide to talk about the facts of life, you specifically decide to talk about all its ups and downs. _____?

A Helping Hand/Explanations (for those idioms/collocations that are not true:)

Not on your life! – Never! Not for anything (no matter what its value).

Get a life! – Do something useful in your life/make a life for yourself. (Derogatory.)

To lead the life of Riley – To lead a life of luxury and ease!

To lead a dog's life – To have a bad time of things!

The facts of life – The facts about reproduction!/or the harsh realities of life.

“NUMBERS” (1).

Shapes and Sizes/Geometry! Instructions. Complete each idiom/collocation that follows by choosing one word from those listed below. Questions number one and five each require two answers! (Further help, if required, is available at the end of the exercise.)

**Dash, Flat, Line, Long, Measure, Point,
Quarter, Round, Square x 4, Tangent, Thick.**

- 1.) I'm glad I've given up selling as a career. I was very uncomfortable doing it. I felt like a _____ peg in a _____ hole! (Two different answers are required here!)
- 2.) David is quite good as a lecturer, but I wish he'd stick to the point. He keeps flying off at a _____, and I lose track of what he's trying to say.
- 3.) I think it's okay for children up to the age of ten being allowed out till, say, ten o'clock, but then they must return home surely! You've got to draw the _____ somewhere.
- 4.) I'm hungry! I haven't had a _____ meal in ages, just a few snacks. What's for dinner?
- 5.) When the boxer's _____ d up to each other, there was no _____ given! Both stared firmly into each other's eyes. (Two different answers are also required here!)
- 6.) My, you do look smart! You should certainly cut a _____ at your interview. You're bound to get the job.
- 7.) Hey, don't accuse me of cheating! I won that game fair and _____!
- 8.) Well, yes, not to put too fine a _____ on it, you did leave me in a very awkward position. Is that blunt enough for you?
- 9.) Quick! Quick! If we go _____ out, we should just about make it to the beginning of the film?

- 10.) That's laying it on a bit _____, isn't it? There's no need to exaggerate!
- 11.) Anyway, to get to the point, the _____ and the short of it is that the next time you must try harder if you didn't get this one right!
- 12.) The opposing football team's winger seems to have the _____ of our left back. He beats him to the ball every time – we need someone who's a bit quicker.

A Helping Hand/Explanations:

To draw the line (at something/somewhere) – to make a stand over something.

To lay it on (a bit) thick – to exaggerate.

To feel like a square peg in a round hole – to feel out of place/uncomfortable.

To go flat out – to go very quickly/at the limit of one's potential speed.

To have the measure of someone/something – to be able to deal with comfortably/to be (easily) within one's capabilities.

A square meal – a sizeable meal – dinner, lunch, etc.

To fly off at a tangent – to wildly digress/wander away from the central point of what one is saying.

The long and the short of it – in brief/the essence of the matter.

To square up to one another – to face each other in an aggressive manner.

No quarter (was) given – no leeway (was) permitted.

Not to put too fine a point on matters/it – to be blunt/straightforward.

Fair and square – an emphatic way of saying "fairly" – without any cheating.

To cut a dash – to create a positive impact by the way one looks.

NUMBERS (2).

More Quantities! Instructions. Complete each idiom/collocation that follows by choosing one word from those listed below.

**Big x 2, Dash, Dot, Drop, Glimmer, Grain, Heap,
Large, Ounce, Part, Shred, Small, Speck, Trace,
Whole.***

- 1.) There is now only a _____ of hope left that any survivors may be found following last week's air crash, for it is unusual for anyone to be able survive that long in the desert area in which the plane went down.

- 2.) The police have warned the public that there is a deranged criminal at _____ in the Southampton area! He is believed to have escaped from the city's mental asylum, but the police are having difficulty telling him apart from the rest of the city's inhabitants!

- 3.) I like to drink my whisky very strong – so just a _____ of water in mine, thank you!

- 4.) You can't arrest me! You haven't got a _____ of evidence to link me with the crime!

- 5.) Excuse me, can I borrow your handkerchief? I seem to have got a _____ of dust in my eye.

- 6.) I'm afraid I never know what to say when I first meet people – you see, I'm not very good at _____ talk. Now if there's a grand debate about something, then I'm fine!

- 7.) So, you think you can beat me up, do you? Come over here – or do you just talk _____? Let's see what you're made of?

- 8.) Our pay rise is quite nice, but it's just a _____ in the ocean compared to what our bosses are getting! They're getting much, much more!

- 9.) Police in the Southampton area say the wanted criminal has now completely disappeared. There isn't the slightest _____ of him.

- 10.) Don't be late for our meeting, will you? I shall expect you to arrive at three on the _____. If you're but five minutes late, I'll have gone!
- 11.) Busy? Why, I'm afraid we've got a _____ of work to do at the moment – perhaps you could come back tomorrow?
- 12.) I think you're lying! There isn't a _____ of truth in what your saying! How could you be so despicable?
- 13.) Oh, no! How could you put the ice cream on top of the radiator? Any-one with an _____ of good sense would know not to do that! Now it's all melted!
- 14.) Scoring goals is _____ and parcel of playing football. It's no good playing well if you don't put the ball in the back of the net!
- 15.) Shall we finish the gardening today? Having come this far, we may as well go the _____ way/hog and complete it?
- 16.) Okay, who's the _____ cheese round here? Who's in charge? (Very colloquial!)

***There are also the words iota, modicum and smidgen which are/ may be of interest?**

NUMBERS (3).

Quantities – Nothing! (Or, as King Lear said: “Nothing will come of nothing”!)

Instructions. The *lettered* definitions for the following *numbered* idioms/collocations have become mixed up. Can you unravel them? (Place your answer in the space provided at the end of each question.)

- 1.) If something is described as nothing to write home about,... (=’s definition letter:) _____
 - 2.) If somebody says here goes nothing,

 - 3.) If somebody says you are making something out of nothing,

 - 4.) If somebody is described as a good for nothing,

 - 5.) If somebody says to you nothing doing,

 - 6.) If somebody does something in nothing flat,

 - 7.) If somebody will stop at nothing,

 - 8.) If somebody says “nothing ventured, nothing gained”,

 - 9.) If somebody says think nothing of it,

 - 10.) If somebody says you have nothing on them,

- a.) it is probably in response to something nice someone did for you – but they don’t want you to think of it as something for which you should thank them profusely.

- b.) they are, rather colloquially, refusing a request to do something (or, perhaps, are simply reporting that nothing is happening.)
- c.) they mean specifically that you have no incriminating evidence against them.
- d.) they mean you are misinterpreting something and giving it a significance it doesn't have.
- e.) they are suggesting that if you don't take a risk/do something, you won't "win" anything.
- f.) they are, rather derogatorily, thought of as being totally useless.
- g.) they do it very quickly – in almost no time at all.
- h.) in effect they are saying let's take a chance as we've got nothing to lose by doing so.
- i.) it is just average/nothing special.
- j.) they will do anything to achieve their goals.

SUCCESS/FAILURE (1).

Definitions of Success. *Instructions.* Complete the definition of each idiom/collocation that follows by choosing one word from those listed directly below.

Bad,	Bag,	Ball,	Bring/Pull,	Carry,
Mark,	Pinnacle,	Pretty,	Scratch,	Tree.

- 1.) If you are sitting _____, you are in a comfortable position.
- 2.) If something is in the _____, it's assured.
- 3.) If you _____ something off, you succeed when you are perhaps expected to fail.
- 4.) If you're having yourself a _____, you're really enjoying yourself.
- 5.) If you _____ all before you, you make a big impression on others - are triumphant in their eyes.
- 6.) If someone is described as being at the top of their _____, they're at the peak of their profession - and have gone as high as it is possible for them to go.
- 7.) If you're not half _____ at something, you are actually very good at it! (Given its slightly inverse logic, it's probably true to say that this is a somewhat colloquial phrase!)
- 8.) If you say something that hits the _____, you perhaps utter something which sums up a situation particularly accurately or goes down well with your listener/s.
- 9.) If you come up to _____, you meet the required standards for something.
- 10.) If you are at the _____ of success, you have reached the very top.

SUCCESS/FAILURE (2).

More Definitions - Success. *Instructions.* As before/above, complete the definition of each idiom/collocation that follows by choosing one word from those listed below.

Colours,	Dab,	Dog,	Dory,	Flyer,
Goods,	Guns,	Occasion,	Roses,	World.

- 1.) If you're particularly successful in your career (or life generally), you might be described as being a high _____.
- 2.) If you deliver the _____, you live up to your promises or do what you said you'd do!
- 3.) If you're the person in charge, you might be described as being the top _____!
- 4.) If you go great _____, you do something successfully very quickly.
- 5.) If something is described as being out of this _____, it normally means it is amazingly impressive (or perhaps, if used sarcastically, just amazing!)
- 6.) If you're a _____ hand at something, you're very good at doing it – especially refers to practical things where you might well use your hands.
- 7.) If you rise to the _____, you somehow manage to meet high expectations – or do yourself honour in performing a given task.
- 8.) If you pass an exam with flying _____, you pass it very well indeed.
- 9.) If everything is hunky _____, you're very satisfied with everything/feeling fine.
- 10.) If you experience one success after another, you might say everything's coming up _____!

SUCCESS/FAILURE (3).

Mainly Comparative Phrases - Good, Bad or Mediocre? Instructions.
 Can you complete each idiom/collocation that follows by choosing one word from those listed below. (Further help, if required, is available at the end of the exercise.)

Bunch,	Candle,	Cut,	Home,	Ladder,
League,	Mill,	Patch,	Rings,	Smell,
So-So,	Spots,	Steal,	Streets,	Wear.

- 1.) One way of saying that one thing is better than another is to say that the first thing is a _____ above the second, meaning it is just so much better.

- 2.) If you consider that something is neither especially good nor particularly bad, you might say that it's nothing to write _____ about, though the connotation may be a slightly negative one because of its indicating that there is indeed nothing "special" about it!

- 3.) Another way of saying that one thing is better than another is to say that the *second* thing isn't a _____ on the first.

- 4.) I think our football team is much better than yours! They can knock _____ off your team any day of the week!

- 5.) Rubbish! Our team can run _____ around yours!

- 6.) Some people say the BBC is _____ ahead of independent television and I think I agree. There aren't any adverts for starters!

- 7.) Yes, I agree. Independent television just isn't in the same _____ as the good old BBC!

- 8.) Of course, if you think, say, a television show (or something else) is just average, you might say it is just run of the _____.

- 9.) Some people thought last night's theatre performance was terrible, but I thought it wasn't so bad . It wasn't so good either – just _____ - but it wasn't a disaster! Just average!

- 10.) No one can hold a _____ to Jones when it comes to acting. His performances outshine everyone else's. He's truly the star of the show.
- 11.) He _____ s the show every time, you mean?
- 12.) Yes, when it comes to all the great actors of our time, he's the pick of the _____!
- 13.) After a few/some years things may become the worse for _____ - particularly things like clothing!
- 14.) People often refer to the sweet _____ of success – as if it had a scent of its own!
- 15.) Additionally, people often refer to climbing the _____ of success – or of having one foot on this, or of being at the top of this.

A Helping Hand/Explanations:

(To be) streets ahead of something – more advanced than something in the “lead” and by inference, thus, better.

(Something is) not a patch on something else – (something is) not as good as (the other thing) - comparative! The extent to which this is true is open to question, but the inference is that there is a large gap in quality between the two things.

(One thing is) a cut above (another) – again comparative, suggesting that one thing is that much better than another.

(Someone) can't hold a candle to someone else - (someone is) unequal to someone/doesn't measure up to that person. Again comparative.

The pick of the bunch – the best. (Like the best of a bunch of flowers, etc.)

To steal the show – to put in a great performance/be the best.

(Something is) not in the same league (as something else) – comparative, suggesting one thing is superior to another – for instance, like a premier league football team is superior to a second division one (- they simply aren't in the same league).

(Something is) nothing to write home about – (something is) just average/nothing special – not the sort of thing one would naturally make a point of writing home about!

So-so – average. (Not to be confused with someone calling someone else a “so and so” – which means that they (do not have a very high opinion of them)/rather dislike them!)

To become/be the worse for wear – to deteriorate/have deteriorated due to long/over use.

Run of the mill – ordinary/nothing special.

To knock spots off of something – to defeat utterly.

To run rings around someone – to outmatch someone/be so much better than someone.

The sweet smell of success – a descriptive term one might well use when being very successful.

The ladder of success – term used to describe success and it's progress.

SUCCESS/FAILURE (4).

Failure! Instructions. Complete each idiom/collocation that follows by choosing one word from those listed below. (Further help, if required, is available at the end of the exercise.)

Cropper,	Ear,	Face,	Goner,	Pains,
Pot,	Screw,	Spout,	Sticky,	Swanee,
Turkey,	Under,	Unstuck,	Wall,	Water.

- 1.) Despite costing millions of pounds to make, I'm afraid Spielberg's latest film is a real _____! The producers will be lucky if they get half their money back.
- 2.) I don't think there can be any doubt that this washing machine has had its day. I'm afraid it's a _____. You'll have to buy a new one.
- 3.) What do you mean "you left your money at home"? Great! Now our hopes of buying a ticket for the concert are really up the _____.
- 4.) When Brazil scored their second goal with only two minutes remaining, Australia's hopes of qualifying for the World Cup went down the _____. All they could do now was plan ahead for the next competition in four years time.
- 5.) If our company somehow doesn't get some more money soon, it is going to go _____. Then we'll all be out of work.
- 6.) If I don't finish this work by three, I'll be in deep _____. Pass me those papers over there will you?
- 7.) I'm afraid our secret plans to take over our business rivals have come _____. Somehow or other they've found out what we were up to.
- 8.) Our business is going to the _____. Can't we do anything to improve matters before we become bankrupt?
- 9.) The washing machine has broken down, the dog is ill, and my wife has left me. Everything has gone to _____. Oh, how unhappy I am!

- 10.) If you are a fool for your _____, you not only do something wrongly but also make a complete idiot of yourself by trying to make it better.
- 11.) Well, that show didn't go down too well with the audience, did it? In fact, it fell flat on its _____.
- 12.) It's very cold outside. You better be careful you don't come a _____ and slip up on the ice or something! It would be easy to have an accident!
- 13.) You should be careful what you do with super glue or you might come to a _____ end! You don't want to visit a hospital because your fingers are glued together, do you?
- 14.) What a pig's _____ you've made of putting these shelves up! The instructions were so simple and you've made such a mess of it!
- 15.) Now don't make such a mess of the wall papering will you? If you _____ it up, I will not be pleased!

A Helping Hand/Explanations:

A turkey – a phrase sometimes used to describe a film or other artistic endeavour that has failed miserably/made a big loss.

To come a cropper – to suffer some misfortune, especially through having an accident.

To make a pig's ear of something – to make a complete mess of something.

Up the spout – ruined/in a hopeless situation. (Can also mean someone is pregnant!) (Colloquial.)

To screw something up – to make a mess of something/fail miserably. (Fairly colloquial.)

A goner – lost/irretrievably broken. (Colloquial.)

Down the Swanee – irretrievably lost. (Sometimes also used with "up". There is also the phrase, perhaps more commonly used, "down the drain" meaning the same thing.)

To fall flat on one's face – to fail miserably, often embarrassingly.

To go under – to become bankrupt/go out of business.

To go to the wall – (also) to become bankrupt.

To come to a sticky end – to meet a bad end!

Top come unstuck – to fail, especially in one's plans.

To go to pot – to fail utterly.

To be in deep water – to be in trouble/a difficult situation. (There are also the variants to be in heavy or hot water, meaning much the same thing.)

SUCCESS/FAILURE (5) – MAINLY A REPRISE OF SOME OF THE PHRASES USED EARLIER.

A Conversation. *Instructions.* Complete each idiom/collocation in the conversation that follows by choosing one word from those listed below. (Further help, if required, is available at the end of the exercise.)

Bad,	Dog,	Ear,	End,	Goods,	Gum,
Guns,	Hand,	It,	Mark,	Occasion,	Scratch,
Shakes,	Soup,	Tree,	World.		

(Decorator:) Jack has done very well for himself in his career. In fact, he's at the top of his _____ (1). He can't go any further.

(Friend:) Oh, he's top _____ (2), you mean?

(Decorator:) Yes, but I'm up a _____ (3) tree if I don't get this decorating done! The boss said he'd not pay me if I didn't complete it by the end of this afternoon.

(Friend:) I'd help you, but I'm afraid I'm no great _____ (4) at decorating. I usually only succeed in putting the wallpaper on upside down!

(Decorator:) Oh, surely you can't be as bad as that? Surely, you'd never make such a pig's _____ (5) of it?

(Friend:) Yes, I'm afraid things would come to a sticky _____ (6) if you let me help you – and then you'd really be in the _____ (7)! Now, Tom's the man to help you. I'm sure he'd come up to _____ (8). With his help you'd go great _____ (9) – the job would be finished in no time at all.

(Decorator:) So, he's not half _____ (10) at decorating, then?

(Friend:) Sure enough, he's out of this _____ (11) – simply amazing. He'd deliver the _____ (12) on time.

(Decorator:) Well, I must admit I could do with someone's help! I'm really up against _____ (13). I've only got a couple of hours.

(Friend:) I'll go get him, then. He's a dab _____ (14) at decorating. I'm sure he'll rise to the _____ (15).

(Decorator:) Great! You've really hit the _____ (16) with that suggestion. I can't thank you enough...

A Helping Hand/Explanations for those phrase not used earlier:

To be no great shakes at something – to be not very good at doing something.

To be up a gum tree – in a difficult situation/position.

To be really up against it – also in a difficult situation – this occasion usually with a certain emphasis on running out of time.

To be in the soup – to be in trouble.

SUCCESS/FAILURE (6) – (MAINLY) A FURTHER REPRISE.

True or False? Instructions. Some of the following definitions are true and some false. Can you tell which is which? (Write “True” or “False” in the space provided at the end of each definition. Further help for those definitions that are false is provided at the end of the exercise.)

- 1.) If somebody is down on their uppers, they dislike those who are in a superior position to themselves. _____?
- 2.) If something goes to pot, you are about to start cooking. _____?
- 3.) If you are sitting pretty, you are about to have your photograph taken. _____?
- 4.) If something is in the bag, it is assured. _____?
- 5.) If you pull something off, you break it. _____?
- 6.) If a business is on the rocks, it is in a bad financial situation. _____?
- 7.) If you are on your beam-ends, you are up in your attic. _____?
- 8.) If you are a fool for your pains, you not only do something wrongly but also make a complete idiot of yourself by trying to make it better. _____?
- 9.) If you come a cropper, you start working on a farm at harvest time. _____?
- 10.) If you’re in a cleft stick, you’ve decided to sit down for a short while. _____?
- 11.) If you are down at heel, you are rather poor/out of luck. _____?
- 12.) If you’re playing a losing game, you are following the wrong strategy. _____?

13.) If you have yourself a ball, you've decided to take up playing football.

?

14.) If you carry all before you, you triumph/make a big impression on others. _____?

15.) If you come unstuck, you get found out about something/get into trouble. _____?

PERSONALITY FEATURES – A GAME.

Instructions. The following vocabulary exercises once completed can be turned into a game! It can be played either by individuals or (ideal for teachers) by groups or in teams. It is easy and fun to play and the only additional equipment needed is a watch or some kind of timer. The basis of the game is that players or teams take it in turn to call out a letter of the alphabet and then guess as many as possible of the synonymous words (or phrases) listed for each key word given for that letter in a given time span – say one and a half to two minutes. So, for example, if the first team or player calls out the letter “A” they are then given the key word “ANGRY” and have one and a half or two minutes to name as many as possible of the synonymous words or phrases listed for this word. Each individual or team receives one point for each matching answer to those words listed under the key word, with the score being kept by a separate individual (or the teacher). For each word they get correct, the separate player (or the teacher) will say “yes” and for each one incorrectly “no” – keeping count meantime how many are scored correctly. All the individual or team playing has to do is call out as many of the answers as possible. It’s as simple as that! (To keep the other teams alert, they may call out any answers they think the first team might have missed – after the first team’s allotted time span – in order to score bonus points.)

OR an even more fun version of the game (for teams only) is that each team has, say, to get six of the required answers - or has thirty seconds before starting, to declare how many of the synonyms they think they can actually come up with. They must then match one of these figures (either six or the declared number) or pay a forfeit – which will involve some ROLEPLAY! For this the teacher will ask two members of the team to come forward and will give them – unknown to the rest of the team – two different personality features from those which their team chose originally which they must then try to indicate to their team by reading a dialogue! A couple of dialogues suitable for this purpose follow the vocabulary exercises. It is then up to the rest of the team of the two individuals chosen to guess which roles they have been handed by the teacher. (It’s probably best for this version of the game to actually have all the personality features listed on a blackboard – so the teams can see what the options are.) Usually this all proves to be good fun as well as highly educative.

A.) Angry

- 1.) I R A T E
- 2.) L _____ D
- 3.) _____ U R _____ S
- 4.) V _____ X _____
- 5.) I _____ C E _____ S _____
- 6.) _____ A _____
- 7.) E _____ R _____ D
- 8.) _____ F _____ R _____ T _____ D
- 9.) O _____ R _____ G _____
- 10.) I _____ S C _____ B _____

B.) Bold

- 1.) D A R I N G
- 2.) I _____ T _____ P _____ D
- 3.) _____ A V _____
- 4.) F _____ R _____ S S
- 5.) V _____ L _____ T
- 6.) C _____ U _____ G _____ U _____
- 7.) U D _____ C _____ U S
- 8.) A _____ V _____ T _____ R _____ S
- 9.) B _____ Z _____ *
- 10.) F _____ W _____ R D *

(* These have negative rather than positive connotations, but still relate to being bold.)

C.) Confused

- 1.) B E M U S E D
- 2.) B E W _____ D _____ R _____ D
- 3.) B E _____ F _____ D _____ _____ D
- 4.) D _____ Z _____
- 5.) D _____ S O R _____ _____ T _____ T _____
- 6.) M _____ D _____ D
- 7.) A D _____ D
- 8.) S _____ P _____ F _____ D
- 9.) A _____ L / A _____ / S _____ A
- 10.) A _____ / _____ X _____ S /
_____ N / S _____ _____ S

D.) Drunk

- 1.) I N T O X I C A T E D
- 2.) I N _____ B _____ I _____ T _____
- 3.) L _____ G _____ _____ S
- 4.) S O _____ S _____ D
- 5.) T _____ G _____
- 6.) S M _____ _____ H _____ D
- 7.) P _____ R _____ L Y _____ _____ C
- 8.) P _____ _____ S T _____ _____ D

9.) S L S 10.) B T T **E.) Elated**1.) E C S T A T I C2.) B S S L3.) X B R N 4.) O V J Y E 5.) J B L T6.) X L T T7.) E N P T E D8.) R P U O S9.) O / C D / N N 10.) N / S V N H / H
V N

(There is also the word exhilarated, which could easily be included here – or swapped for one of the phrases above.)

F.) Frightened(/Unpleasantly Surprised)1.) A F R A I D2.) A A M 3.) S R D4.) F F L5.) H K N6.) C W

7.) S ____ A ____ T ____ D

8.) H ____ R ____ F ____ D

9.) T ____ R ____ F ____

10.) P ____ T ____ I ____ D

G.) Grave

1.) S E R I O U S

2.) S ____ L ____ N

3.) S ____ M ____ E

4.) ____ R N S T

5.) P ____ F ____ U ____ D

6.) P ____ S ____ V ____

7.) ____ H ____ G H F ____

8.) U ____ S M ____ L ____ G

9.) G ____ O O ____ Y

10.) I ____ T ____ S ____

H.) Happy-go-lucky

1.) E A S Y G O I N G

2.) R ____ X ____ D

3.) C ____ R E F ____

4.) ____ G H - H ____ R T ____ D

5.) N ____ N C ____ L ____ T

6.) U ____ T ____ O ____ B L ____ D

7.) B ____ T H ____

8.) B ____ A S ____

9.) F ____ E / N D / E ____ S ____

10.) I ____ S ____ C ____ A ____ T

I.) Impatient(/Impetuous)

1.) R E S T L E S S

2.) B ____ S Q ____ ____

3.) ____ M P ____ T U ____ ____ S

4.) R ____ T ____ ____ E

5.) T ____ S T ____

6.) H ____ ____ ____ Y

7.) ____ ____ S H

8.) S ____ ____ P ____ Y

9.) ____ M P ____ ____ S ____ V ____

10.) H ____ ____ D S ____ ____ O ____ G

J.) Jovial

1.) H A P P Y

2.) J ____ L ____ Y

3.) J ____ C ____ L ____ R

4.) J ____ Y ____ ____ L

5.) J ____ C ____ S ____

6.) J ____ C ____ ____ D

7.) J _ B _ L _ T _

8.) C _ R _ F _

9.) M _ T _ F _

10.) L _ T _ H _

K.) Kindly

1.) C O N S I D E R A T E

2.) S P T H _ _ _ C

3.) N C _ _

4.) H P _ _ _ L

5.) H _ _ G H F _ _

6.) H M _ N _

7.) U D _ S _ _ _ D _ _ _ G

8.) C H R T B _ _

9.) S L C T _ _ S

10.) R M T D _ _ D

L.) Lustful

1.) L E C H E R O U S

2.) L W _ _

3.) D S R _ _ S

4.) S A L C _ _ S

5.) R _ _ D Y

6.) H R Y _ _

7.) H _ _ _ - B _ O _ D _ D

8.) A S S _ N T E

9.) L S C V U _

10.) P R R _ N _

M.) Majestic

1.) R O Y A L

2.) E G _ L

3.) L _ _ D _ Y

4.) N _ B _ E

5.) A _ I _ T _ C _ T _ C

6.) K _ _ G _ Y

7.) Q _ E E _ L _

8.) P _ I _ C _ L _

9.) B _ U _ / B _ O O _ D

10.) I _ P _ R _ L

N.) Negative

1.) P E S S I M I S T I C

2.) D U T _ _ G

3.) D F _ T _ T

4.) L _ M Y

5.) C I T C L

6.) C _ P L _ N N _

- 7.) C Y C L
- 8.) U H P F L
- 9.) U C O P R T V
- 10.) U E T H S S
C

O.) Optimistic

- 1.) P O S I T I V E
- 2.) B U L H
- 3.) U B T
- 4.) C F D T
- 5.) C H F L
- 6.) B Y T
- 7.) H P F
- 8.) X P C T T
- 9.) H H - P R I D
- 10.) J U Y

P.) Polite

- 1.) M A N N E R L Y
- 2.) C U T O
- 3.) I V I
- 4.) D F R N L
- 5.) G T L

6.) G ____ T L ____ M ____ N ____

7.) ____ S P ____ C ____ ____ L

8.) C ____ ____ L ____ S ____ D

9.) C ____ L ____ U ____ E ____

10.) ____ E F ____ N ____ D

Q.) Quizzical(/Interfering)

1.) C U R I O U S

2.) ____ ____ Q ____ ____ S ____ T ____ V ____

3.) M ____ D ____ L ____ ____ ____ M ____

4.) N ____ S ____

5.) P ____ Y ____ ____ G

6.) Q ____ ____ ____ T ____ ____ N ____ ____ G

7.) S N ____ ____ P ____

8.) I ____ T ____ R ____ ____ G ____ T ____ ____ E

9.) I ____ T ____ R ____ ____ T ____

10.) I ____ T R ____ ____ ____ V ____

R.) Remorseful

- 1.) A P O L O G E T I C
- 2.) S _____ Y
- 3.) R _____ P _____ T _____ T
- 4.) C _____ N _____ R _____ T _____
- 5.) P _____ N _____ T _____ T
- 6.) _____ U _____ F _____ L
- 7.) A _____ A M _____ D
- 8.) M _____ R T _____ F _____ D
- 9.) A B _____ S _____ D
- 10.) C _____ N _____ C _____ C _____ C - S T _____
_____ C K _____

S.) Shy

- 1.) R E S E R V E D
- 2.) _____ I M _____ D
- 3.) B _____ S _____ F _____
- 4.) S _____ F - C _____ S C _____ S
- 5.) _____ N T _____ V _____ T _____
- 6.) R _____ T _____ C _____ T
- 7.) R _____ T _____ R _____ G
- 8.) C _____ A _____ Y
- 9.) W _____ T _____ D _____ W _____
- 10.) _____ I F F _____ D _____ N _____

T.) Tense/(Nervous)

- 1.) J I T T E R Y
- 2.) J ____ — — — Y
- 3.) U ____ T ____ G ____
- 4.) ____ ____ S T L ____ ____ S
- 5.) ____ N / E ____ G ____
- 6.) A G ____ T ____ T E ____
- 7.) U ____ E A ____ ____
- 8.) F ____ — — — G ____ T
- 9.) K ____ Y ____ ____ / ____ P
- 10.) W ____ ____ N ____ / U ____

U.) Unhappy

- 1.) D E P R E S S E D
- 2.) ____ L ____ E
- 3.) ____ L ____ M
- 4.) S ____ ____
- 5.) D ____ W ____ H ____ — — R ____ ____ D
- 6.) M ____ L ____ — — C ____ ____ L ____
- 7.) D ____ — — N C ____ S ____
- 8.) D ____ S P ____ — — — T ____ ____
- 9.) M ____ — — — S ____
- 10.) ____ ____ W

V.) Vain

- 1.) E G O I S T I C
- 2.) C _____ C _____ T _____ D
- 3.) P _____ U _____
- 4.) S N _____ B _____ S _____
- 5.) H _____ G H _____ Y
- 6.) _____ R R _____ G _____ T
- 7.) B _____ S _____ F _____
- 8.) _____ V _____ R B _____ R I _____ G
- 9.) S _____ F - I _____ P _____ R _____ N T
- 10.) _____ O F F _____ - N _____ S _____ D

W.) Worried

- 1.) A N X I O U S
- 2.) P _____ R _____ U _____ B _____
- 3.) _____ R _____ B L _____ D
- 4.) U _____ S Y
- 5.) F _____ F _____ L
- 6.) A P _____ H _____ S _____ V _____
- 7.) B _____ H _____ R _____ D
- 8.) D _____ S T _____ B _____
- 9.) U _____ S _____ T _____ L _____ D
- 10.) I _____ / T / A S _____ *

X.) “(e)Xcitable”! (/Emotional)

- 1.) E M O T I O N A L
- 2.) T S Y
- 3.) M O D
- 4.) V L T L
- 5.) M C R L
- 6.) T M P S U S
- 7.) H T - H A D
- 8.) Q C - M P R D
- 9.) N P D C B
- 10.) T M P M T L

Y.) Yearning...for (Actually yearning is, of course, a noun – but there aren't many suitable adjectives beginning with “Y”!)

- 1.) L O N G I N G
- 2.) C V G
- 3.) D S R O S
- 4.) W N T
- 5.) A N K I G
- 6.) L S F L
- 7.) A H G
- 8.) H G R N
- 9.) B R I N
- 10.) T I S I G

Z.) Zealous

- 1.) F A N A T I C A L
- 2.) A D T
- 3.) F V I
- 4.) V D
- 5.) F V N
- 6.) I P S N D
- 7.) I T S
- 8.) D V D
- 9.) Z S F
- 10.) E H S S C

SOME RESERVE LETTERS/POSSIBILITIES**B.) Bored(/Indifferent)**

- 1.) F E D / U P
- 2.) A T H E C
- 3.) C E E D / F
- 4.) L S L S
- 5.) L H R G C
- 6.) E N V T D
- 7.) U E T H S S
- 8.) W R Y
- 9.) L G D
- 10.) T R D

I.) Introverted

- 1.) W I T H D R A W N
- 2.) Y
- 3.) R S V D
- 4.) C T M P T V
- 5.) P S V
- 6.) M D T T E
- 7.) N T O P C V
- 8.) I W R / O O K
- 9.) M S N
- 10.) B O O G

K.) Keen

- 1.) E N T H U S I A S T I C
- 2.) A D T
- 3.) F V T
- 4.) V D
- 5.) Z L S
- 6.) A G R
- 7.) F N A I C
- 8.) E R E T
- 9.) A S S N T
- 10.) F R D / P

T.) Tired

- 1.) W E A R Y
- 2.) F T G E
- 3.) D R N
- 4.) W H K D
- 5.) B U H
- 6.) P P D
- 7.) A - N *
- 8.) D D / B T *
- 9.) K C K R
- 10.) X U T

X.) “(e)Xtrovert

- 1.) O U T G O I N G
- 2.) S C B
- 3.) G G R U S
- 4.) L V L
- 5.) O T P O N
- 6.) U B B Y
- 7.) F D Y
- 8.) F R H I H
- 9.) F F V E S N
- 10.) B U C

TWO SHORT DIALOGUES (for the game)

Dialogue 1.

(Doorbell rings)

Ewa: Coming - just a moment! Oh hi, Piotr! So, you finally made it. How are you?

Piotr: Not so bad. You know how it is – mustn’t grumble! And you?

Ewa: Oh, I’m fine. Come in, make yourself at home as usual. I suppose you’d like a cup of tea?

Piotr: Yes, just what I need – if it isn’t too much trouble?

Ewa: Oh, no trouble at all – I’m doing it all the time for my brother. Fancy something a little stronger perhaps?

Piotr: Um? No! It’s still a little early in the day for me, thanks all the same.

Ewa: And how was your journey?

Piotr: Oh, much the same as usual. Slight delay with the train, but it got here in the end. British Rail! You know what they ‘re like.

Ewa: My brother works for British Rail actually – if you don’t mind!

Piotr: Oh, I am sorry!

Ewa: Never mind! I suppose you weren’t to know.

Piotr: Well, anyway...how have things been recently – not that I wish to be nosy, of course. Just that I’ve heard you’ve been having financial difficulties?

Ewa: Well, our business project didn’t quite go according to plan.

Piotr: I am sorry to hear that. Better luck next time...

Dialogue 2:

Kasia: What time is it, Greg? Surely, they should be here by now?

Greg: It's only quarter past. Stop worrying! They're probably trying to park their car somewhere – that's all.

Kasia: Oh, I suppose that's true!

Greg: Shall we have a drink while we're waiting?

Kasia: Well, okay. There's not much else we can do!

Greg: We didn't bring the car, so we can both have a jolly good time.

Kasia: But just the one for me this evening, I think.

Greg: Scotch and soda for me! And for you?

Kasia: Oh, my usual – a small glass of wine.

Greg: Don't fancy anything stronger?

Kasia: Oh, you know – with my constitution, I'd be ill!

Greg: Suit yourself, then. Waiter! We'd like a scotch and soda and a small glass of wine!

Kasia. What time did you say it was again?

Greg: Quarter past!

Kasia: Ah, here they are now – thank heavens! Tom, Susan – over here!

Greg: Ah, about time you two showed up..!

ANSWERS.

CLOZE TESTS (PLUS):

Cloze Test 1: Art.

1. Last.
2. Nothing/ness.
3. Out.
4. Purposes.
5. Exhibition.
6. Through.
7. Members.
8. Go/Time.
9. Sight/Spectacle/Experience.
10. Influenced/Inspired.
11. Range.
12. Function(s)/Purpose(s).
13. Goings.
14. Servant.
15. Taking.

Art Continued

- 1 & 2. Picture.
3. Lick.
4. Art.
5. Black.
6. Art.
7. Brush.
8. Picture.
9. Brush.
10. Red.

Cloze Test 2: Bribery

1. Confused.
2. Induce.
3. Bonus.
4. Norm.
5. Commonplace.
6. Construction (and N.B. not constructing!).
7. Bidding.
8. Other.
9. Traffic.
10. Supplement.
11. Meagre.
12. Favourably.
13. Dilemma.
14. Desired.
15. Short.

Bribery Continued:

Connected with bribery – numbers: 1, 3, 7, 9, 10, 11 and 13.

Cloze Test 3: Relationships.

1. Apart/up.
2. Come.
3. Chat/ted.
4. Rid/shot.
5. Gaze/eye/observation.
6. About.
7. Infidelity/unfaithfulness.
8. Hand/call.
9. Criticism.
10. Taste.
11. Sanctity/value.
12. Colleagues/kind/profession.
13. Ahead.
14. Seen.
15. Success.

Cloze Test 4: Unemployment/Work.

1. Roaming.
2. Seeking.
3. Mass/es.
4. Gathering.
5. Flocking.
6. Stringent.
7. Posted.
8. Countryside.
9. Migrant.
10. Proclamations.
11. Account.
12. Criminal.
13. Illegal.
14. Abandoned.
15. Loss.

Cloze Test 5: Describing a Photograph.

1. Best.
2. Sprawling.
3. Roaming.
4. Capped.
5. Portrait.
6. Wide.
7. Filter.
8. Close.
9. Zoom.
10. Focus.
11. Head.
12. Snapshot.
13. Oblique.
14. Gloss.
15. Matt.
16. Task.
17. In.
18. Depicts.
19. Portrays.
20. Swirling.

WORD FORMATIONS:

Which Word? Or 50-50.

1. Artistes.
2. Choose.
3. Recollection.
4. Continuity.
5. Manifesto.
6. Monetary.
7. Normality.
8. Rapidity.
9. Stockade.
10. Waiting.
11. Weighted.

Multiple Choice 1.

1 – c; 2 – c; 3 – a; 4 – c; 5 – a; 6 – c; 7 – b; 8 – b; 9 – a; 10 – b.
(No such word: weaponed.)

Multiple Choice 2.

1 – c; 2 – c; 3 – b; 4 – c; 5 – b; 6 – b; 7 – b; 8 – b; 9 – a; 10 – c.

Multiple Choice 3.

1 – c; 2 – a; 3 – c; 4 – b; 5 – c; 6 – a; 7 – a; 8 – c; 9 – a; 10 – d.

Multiple Choice 4.

1 – a; 2 – d; 3 – c; 4 – b; 5 – b; 6 – c; 7 – d; 8 – a; 9 – c; 10 – a.

Verbs.

1. Ally.
2. Encapsulates.
3. Foreclose.
4. Converse.
5. Dabble.
6. Extradite.
7. Default.
8. Adjudged.
9. Dislodge.
10. Bemoaning.
11. Ascribe.
12. Partake.

Nouns 1.

1. Abhorrence.
2. Audacity.
3. Allegations.
4. Habitat.
5. Habitation.
6. Habitue.
7. Interventionist.
8. Isle.
9. Islet.
10. Maturity/Maturation.
11. Parenthood.
12. Parentage.
13. Sainthood.
14. Technocracy.
15. Technocrats.

Nouns 2.

1. Adherence.
2. Adhesion.
3. Compilation.
4. Courtship.
5. Courtier.
6. Crudity.
7. Directive.
8. Disclosure.
9. Divinity.
10. Greenery.
11. Martyrdom.
12. Reservist.
13. Darkroom.
14. Sainthood.
15. Tumbler.

Nouns 3.

1. Atrocities.
2. Blueprint.
3. Deprivation.
4. Extravaganza.
5. Impoverished.
6. Referral.
7. Regalia/Regality.
8. Restaurateur.

9. Secondment.
10. Insight.
11. Soluble.
12. Surety.
13. Totalitarianism.
14. Twosome.
15. Unanimity.

Nouns 4.

1. Anonymity.
2. Ashtray.
3. Banditry.
4. Consistency.
5. Domesticity.
6. Eventuality.
7. Expansionism.
8. Kidology.
9. Enlargement.
10. Livelihood(s).
11. Plumage.
12. Strangulation.
13. Stranglehold.
14. Turbulence.
15. Undulation.

Nouns 5.

1. Condolences.
2. Contortionist.
3. Environs.
4. Foursome.
5. Intermediary.
6. Demarcation.
7. Protectorate.
8. Reactionary.
9. Refinery.
10. Rejoinder.
11. Onslaught.
12. Pretext.
13. Trailblazer.
14. Wisdom.
15. Vehemence.

Nouns 6.

1. Ascendancy.
2. Cessation.
3. Cornerstone.
4. Expulsion.
5. Guarantor.
6. Heiress.
7. Physicists.
8. Popularists.
9. Rigidity.
10. Seclusion.
11. Sedation.
12. Sedatives.
13. Sexploits.
14. Deficient.
15. Protuberance.

Adjectives 1.

1. Anatomical.
2. Indeterminate/able.
3. Drizzly.
4. Drollery.
5. Drudgery.
6. Formative.
7. Militaristic.
8. Peckish.
9. Peripheral.
10. Pivotal.
11. Skeletal.
12. Symptomatic.
13. Ulcerous.
14. Wearisome.
15. Vaporous.

Adjectives 2.

1. Clammy.
2. Collective.
3. Corrective.
4. Discretionary.
5. Indisputable.
6. Incidental.
7. Inconsolable.
8. Insurmountable.
9. Ruinous.
10. Voluminous.
11. Wil(l)ful.

Miscellaneous 1.

1. Abreast.
2. Encashment.
3. Discreditably.
4. Deathly.
5. Fourfold.
6. Gunpoint.
7. Mealy.
8. Recurring.
9. Pointedly.
10. Provocateur.
11. Alongside.
12. Entrapment.
13. Twelvefold.

Miscellaneous 2.

1. Contingency.
2. Foursquare.
3. Disgruntled.
4. Coercion.
5. Masquerade.
6. Displaced.
7. Conversationalist.
8. Misapprehension.
9. Peacekeeping.
10. Conjoined.
11. Distraught.
12. Shortfall.

Miscellaneous 3.

1. Age. 2. Yard. 3. Down. 4. Out. 5. Green. 6. Cast. 7. Way. 8. Top.
9. Act. 10. Break. 11. Back. 12. House. 13. Date. 14. Ice. 15. React.
16. Less. 17. Side. 18. Neck. 19. Bound. 20. Back. 21. Go. 22. Guard. 23.
Per. 24. Self. 25. Per.

Miscellaneous 4.

1. Or. 2. Point. 3. Less. 4. On. 5. Marks. 6. Jack. 7. Worm. 8. Ten.
9. Some. 10. Bird. 11. Ten. 12. Top. 13. Cap. 14. Bed. 15. Side.
16. Don. 17. Drop. 18. Back. 19. Over. 20. End. 21. Line. 22. Her. 23. Is.
24. Her. 25. Wise

Miscellaneous 5.

1. Taste. 2. Pipe. 3. At. 4. Gent. 5. Nest. 6. Fare. 7. Ton. 8. After.
9. Ant. 10. Pot. 11. Drum. 12. Suit. 13. Hood. 14. Pick. 15. Tor.
16. Pal. 17. Silver. 18. Table. 19. Pi. 20. Pole. 21. Hold. 22. Safe.
23. Flower. 24. Book. 25. Back.

Miscellaneous 6.

1. Age. 2. Law. 3. Nation. 4. Mine. 5. Head. 6. Ground. 7. At.
8. Throb. 9. Valid. 10. Knife. 11. Out. 12. Way. 13. Piece. 14. Mad.
15. Tail. 16. Fork. 17. Silver. 18. Force. 19. Side. 20. Bare. 21. Start.
22. Some. 23. Lock. 24. Sty. 25. Disc-rim-in-at-i-on.

Confusing Words.

- 1: a.) Remiss; b.) Amiss.
- 2: a.) Repressed. b.) Suppressed.
- 3: a.) Wandering. b.) Wondering.
- 4: a.) Crevasse. b.) Crevice.
- 5: a.) Lose. b.) Loose.
- 6: a.) Mollify. b.) Mollycoddle.
- 7: a.) Snagged. b.) Snogged.
- 8: a.) Remind. b.) Remember.
- 9: a.) Conscience. b.) Conscious.
- 10: a.) Seize. b.) Cease.
- 11: a.) Skimp. b.) Skimpy.
- 12: a.) Founder. b.) Flounder.

COLLOCATIONS, DEFINITIONS AND SYNONYMS:

Collocations 1.

1 – e. 2 – c. 3 – d. 4 – j. 5 – i. 6 – a. 7 – b. 8 – f. 9 – h. 10 – g.

Collocations 2.

1 – b. 2 – e. 3 – a. 4 – j. 5 – g. 6 – h. 7 – f. 8 – i. 9 – c. 10 – d.

Collocations 3.

1 – g. 2 – f. 3 – h. 4 – j. 5 – d. 6 – a. 7 – b. 8 – i. 9 – c. 10 – e.

Collocations 4.

1. On. 2. By. 3. Under. 4. In. 5. On. 6. At. 7. On. 8. Under. 9. In.
10. In. 11. Of.

Collocations 5.

1 – b. 2 – c. 3 – i. 4 – f. 5 – d. 6 – g. 7 – e. 8 – j. 9 – h. 10 – a.

Collocations 6.

1 – b. 2 – h. 3 – d. 4 – g. 5 – i. 6 – c. 7 – a. 8 – j. 9 – e. 10 – f.

Collocations 7.

1 – h. 2 – c. 3 – f. 4 – a. 5 – j. 6 – d. 7 – b. 8 – g. 9 – e. 10 – i.

Collocations 8.

1. For. 2. With. 3. For. 4. In. 5. To. 6. In. 7. To. 8. Out. 9. To.
10. For. 11. Up

Collocations 9.

1 – d. 2 – j. 3 – h. 4 – i. 5 – f. 6 – c. 7 – b. 8 – e. 9 – g. 10 – a.

Collocations 10.

1 – i. 2 – a. 3 – j. 4 – c. 5 – h. 6 – e. 7 – f. 8 – g. 9 – d. 10 – b.

Definitions 1.

1 – h. 2 – d. 3 – i. 4 – c. 5 – b. 6 – e. 7 – a. 8 – f. 9 – g. 10 – j.

Definitions 2.

1 – b. 2 – a. 3 – a. 4 – b. 5 – b. 6 – b. 7 – a. 8 – b. 9 – b. 10 – b.

Definitions 3.

1 – a. 2 – b. 3 – b. 4 – a. 5 – c. 6 – c. 7 – a. 8 – b. 9 – c. 10 – c.

Definitions 4.

1 – d. 2 – f. 3 – c. 4 – h. 5 – a. 6 – i. 7 – j. 8 – e. 9 – g. 10 – b.

Definitions 5.

1 – a. 2 – b. 3 – b. 4 – b. 5 – a. 6 – a. 7 – b. 8 – a. 9 – a. 10 – a.
11 – a.

Definitions 6.

1 – f. 2 – e. 3 – d. 4 – c. 5 – j. 6 – b. 7 – h. 8 – i. 9 – g. 10 – a.

Definitions 7.

1. Responsibility. 2. Attention. 3. Irritating. 4. Mind. 5. Arrested.
6. Singer. 7. Shooting. 8. Family. 9. Nous. 10. Stupid.

Definitions 8.

1 – a. 2 – a. 3 – a. 4 – a. 5 – b. 6 – b. 7 – a. 8 – a. 9 – b. 10 – a.
11 – b. 12 – a. 13 – a. 14 – b. 15 – b.

Definitions 9.

1 – b. 2 – a. 3 – a. 4 – b. 5 – b. 6 – c. 7 – b. 8 – a. 9 – b. 10 – b.

Definitions 10.

1 – f. 2 – a. 3 – h. 4 – i. 5 – c. 6 – e. 7 – b. 8 – g. 9 – j. 10 – d.

Definitions 11.

1. Bee. 2. Fox. 3. Bird. 4. Elephant. 5. Fly. 6. Dog. 7. Cat. 8. Bug.
9. Bug. 10. Cat. 11. Frog. 12. Cat. 13. Cod. 14. Dog. 15. Hog. 16. Dog.

Definitions 12.

1. Goose. 2. Dog. 3. Hare. 4. Hen. 5. Horse. 6. Ass. 7. Mulish.
8. Nit. 9. Fox. 10. Pig. 11. Sheep. 12. Turtle. 13. Dog. 14. Dog.
15. Cat. 16. Horse

Synonyms 1.

1. To separate. 2. To expatriate. 3. To bestow. 4. To sulk. 5. To eschew.

6. To usher in. 7. To cough up. 8. To keep mum. 9. To pinion. 10. To rejoice. 11. To disown. 12. To exclude.

Synonyms 2.

1. Venerate. 2. Craven. 3. Retract. 4. Caprice. 5. Sojourn. 6. Wayfarer. 7. Sit on the fence. 8. Callow. 9. Slacken. 10. Oddity. 11. To hang one's hat on. 12. Genteel. 13. Exoneration. 14. Secretion. 15. Demonic.

Synonyms 3.

1. Charitable deeds. 2. Improvisation. 3. Proffer. 4. Side-show. 5. Affluent. 6. Commonalties. 7. Ineptitude. 8. Dicey. 9. Democracy. 10. Trio. 11. Dissension.

Synonyms 4.

1. Eminent. 2. Compliance. 3. Volatility. 4. Inevitability. 5. Diminution. 6. Smarting. 7. Miniaturisation. 8. Penury. 9. Aerate. 10. Morsel. 11. Velvety.

Synonyms 5.

1. Commiserations. 2. Surrounds. 3. Quartet. 4. Arbitrator. 5. Boundaries. 6. Haven. 7. Insurrectionist. 8. Retort. 9. Attack. 10. Ruse. 11. Innovator. 12. Ardour.

Synonyms 6.

1. Holding sway. 2. Let-up. 3. Drumming out. 4. Underwriter. 5. Legatee. 6. Tautness. 7. Isolation. 8. Unconscious. 9. Tranquillisers. 10. Defective. 11. Growth.

Synonyms 7.

1. Skeleton. 2. Verifiable. 3. Staid. 4. Glee. 5. Pacifistic. 6. Crux of the matter. 7. A bagatelle. 8. Witness of (which should be witness to!). 9. Galvanising. 10. Searing. 11. Cloistered. 12. Regressive. 13. Imperative. 14. Delineated. 15. Complaisant.

Synonyms 8.

1 – g. 2 – c. 3 – h. 4 – b. 5 – j. 6 – i. 7 – e. 8 – f. 9 – d. 10 – a.

Synonyms 9.

1 – c. 2 – c. 3 – c. 4 – d. 5 – d. 6 – d. 7 – a. 8 – a. 9 – a. 10 – d. 11 – a.

Synonyms 10.

1 – d. 2 – c. 3 – c. 4 – a. 5 – d. 6 – a. 7 – a. 8 – a. 9 – d. 10 – b.

SOME IDIOMS AND OTHER PHRASES:

Gun Control 1.

1 – e; 2 – h; 3 – f; 4 – b; 5 – j; 6 – a; 7 – d; 8 – c; 9 – i; 10 – g.

Gun Control 2.

1 – e; 2 – i; 3 – f; 4 – b; 5 – a; 6 – j; 7 – c; 8 – h; 9 – d; 10 – g.

Gun Control 3.

1 – g; 2 – b; 3 – f; 4 – c; 5 – e; 6 – d; 7 – h; 8 – i; 9 – j; 10 – a.

Gun Control 4.

1 – a; 2 – d; 3 – b; 4 – d; 5 – c; 6 – c; 7 – b; 8 – c; 9 – a; 10 – b.

Health. (With some explanations)

1. Hot under the collar.
2. In a cold sweat (meaning fearful).
3. Sick as a parrot (meaning disappointed).
4. Blooming (connote good not bad health).
5. Ruddy-cheeked (also connote healthy).
6. Fit to drop (meaning unhealthy/unfit).
7. Run down (meaning unhealthy/unfit).
8. Recuperating (recovering).
9. Trim (fit).
10. To have a clean bill of health (healthy).
11. Sickening (for sth' – meaning going down ill).
12. Fall down with an illness (wrong collocation).
13. Bud (nodule/nothing to do with health).
14. Germinate (explanation as for 13).
15. Dead to the world (asleep).
16. Flushed (healthy looking).
17. To be hospitable.

Intelligence/Stupidity 1

1. Spark.
2. Button.
3. Needle.
4. There.
5. Egghead.
6. Boffin.
7. Clogs.
8. Witted.
9. Genius.
10. Alec(k).
11. Know.
12. Ball.
13. Whizz.
14. Trick.
15. Flies.

Intelligence/Stupidity 2

1. Brush.
2. Knuckle.
3. Bricks.
4. Knife.
5. Pig.
6. Planks.
7. Neck.
8. Home.
9. Picnic.
10. Soft.
11. Brained.
12. Space.
13. Slate/screw.
14. Uptake.
15. Deck.

Life and Death 1.

1 – b; 2 – h; 3 – j; 4 – a; 5 – d; 6 – g; 7 – f; 8 – c; 9 – i; 10 – e.

Life and Death 2.

1 – d; 2 – f; 3 – i; 4 – c; 5 – e; 6 – g; 7 – j; 8 – a; 9 – h; 10 – b.

Life and Death 3.

1. More. 2. Dust. 3. Sniff. 4. Daisies. 5. Feet. 6. Ghost. 7. Tops.
8. Maker. 9. Pass. 10. Bucket. 11. Clogs.

Life and Death 4.

True (numbers): 3, 4, 6, 8 and 9.

False: 1, 2, 5, 7 and 10.

Numbers 1.

1. Square/Round. 2. Tangent. 3. Line. 4. Square. 5. Square/Quarter.
6. Dash. 7. Square. 8. Point. 9. Flat. 10. Thick. 11. Long. 12. Measure.

Numbers 2.

1. Glimmer. 2. Large. 3. Dash. 4. Shred. 5. Speck. 6. Small. 7. Big.
8. Drop. 9. Trace. 10. Dot. 11. Heap. 12. Grain. 13. Ounce. 14. Part.
15. Whole. 16. Big.

Numbers 3.

1 – i; 2 – h; 3 – d; 4 – f; 5 – b; 6 – g; 7 – j; 8 – e; 9 – a; 10 – c.

Success/Failure 1.

1. Pretty. 2. Bag. 3. Pull. 4. Ball. 5. Carry. 6. Tree. 7. Bad. 8. Mark.
9. Scratch. 10. Pinnacle.

Success/Failure 2.

1. Flyer. 2. Goods. 3. Dog. 4. Guns. 5. World. 6. Dab. 7. Occasion.
8. Colours. 9. Dory. 10. Roses.

Success/Failure 3.

1. Cut. 2. Home. 3. Patch. 4. Spots. 5. Rings. 6. Streets. 7. League.
8. Mill. 9. So-so. 10. Candle. 11. Steals. 12. Bunch. 13. Wear. 14. Smell.
15. Ladder

Success/Failure 4.

1. Turkey.
2. Goner.
3. Spout.
4. Swanee.
5. Under.
6. Water.
7. Unstuck.
8. Wall.
9. Pot.
10. Pains.
11. Face.
12. Cropper.
13. Sticky.
14. Ear.
15. Screw.

Success/Failure 5.

1. Tree.
2. Dog.
3. Gum.
4. Shakes.
5. Ear.
6. End.
7. Soup.
8. Scratch.
9. Guns.
10. Bad.
11. World.
12. Goods.
13. It.
14. Hand.
15. Occasion.
16. Mark.

Success/Failure 6.

True (numbers): 4, 6, 8, 11, 12, 14 and 15.
False: 1, 2, 3, 5, 7, 9, 10 and 13.

GAME.

A.) Angry

1. Irate.
2. Livid.
3. Furious.
4. Vexed.
5. Incensed.
6. Mad.
7. Enraged.
8. Infuriated.
9. Outraged.
10. Irascible.

B.) Bold

1. Daring.
2. Intrepid.
3. Brave.
4. Fearless.
5. Valiant.
6. Courageous.
7. Audacious.
8. Adventurous.
9. Brazen.
10. Forward.

C.) Confused

1. Bemused.
2. Bewildered.
3. Befuddled.
4. Dazed.
5. Disorientated.
6. Muddled.
7. Addled.
8. Stupefied.
9. All at sea.
10. At sixes and sevens.

D.) Drunk

1. Intoxicated.
2. Inebriated.
3. Legless.
4. Soused.
5. Tight.
6. Smashed.
7. Paralytic.
8. Plastered.
9. Sloshed.
10. Blotto.

E.) Elated

1. Ecstatic.
2. Blissful.
3. Exuberant.
4. Overjoyed.
5. Jubilant.
6. Exultant.
7. Enraptured.
8. Rapturous.
9. On cloud nine.
10. In seventh heaven.

F.) Frightened/(Unpleasantly Surprised*)

1. Afraid.
2. Alarmed*.
3. Scared.
4. Fearful.
5. Shaken.
6. Cowed.
7. Startled*.
8. Horrified.
9. Terrified.
10. Petrified.

G.) Grave

1. Serious.
2. Solemn.
3. Sombre.
4. Earnest.
5. Profound.
6. Pensive
7. Thoughtful.
8. Unsmiling.
9. Gloomy.
10. Intense.

H.) Happy-go-lucky

1. Easygoing.
2. Relaxed.
3. Carefree.
4. Light-hearted.
5. Nonchalant.
6. Untroubled.
7. Blithe.
8. Blasé.
9. Free and Easy.
10. Insouciant.

I.) Impatient

1. Restless.
2. Brusque.
3. Impetuous.
4. Restive.
5. Testy.
6. Hasty.
7. Rash.
8. Snappy.
9. Impulsive.
10. Headstrong.

J.) Jovial

1. Happy.
2. Jolly.
3. Jocular.
4. Joyful.
5. Jocose.
6. Jocund.
7. Jubilant.
8. Cheerful.
9. Mirthful.
10. Blithe.

K.) Kindly

1. Considerate.
2. Sympathetic.
3. Nice.
4. Helpful.
5. Thoughtful.
6. Humane.
7. understanding.
8. Charitable.
9. Solicitous.
10. Warm-hearted.

L.) Lustful

1. Lecherous.
2. Lewd.
3. Desirous.
4. Salacious.
5. Randy.
6. Horny.
7. Hot-blooded.
8. Passionate.
9. Lascivious.
10. Prurient.

M.) Majestic/(Aristocratic)

1. Royal.
2. Regal.
3. Lordly.
4. Noble.
5. Aristocratic.
6. Kingly.
7. Queenly.
8. Princely.
9. Blue-blooded.
10. Imperial.

N.) Negative

1. Pessimistic.
2. Doubting.
3. Defeatist.
4. Gloomy.
5. Critical.
6. Complaining.
7. Cynical.
8. Unhelpful.
9. Uncooperative.
10. Unenthusiastic.

O.) Optimistic

1. Positive. 2. Bullish. 3. Upbeat. 4. Confident. 5. Cheerful.
6. Buoyant. 7. Hopeful. 8. Expectant. 9. High-spirited. 10. Jaunty.

P.) Polite

1. Mannerly. 2. Courteous. 3. Civil. 4. Deferential. 5. Genteel.
6. Gentlemanly. 7. Respectful. 8. Civilised. 9. Cultured. 10. Refined.

Q.) Quizzical(/Interfering)

1. Curious. 2. Inquisitive. 3. Meddlesome. 4. Nosy. 5. Prying.
6. Questioning. 7. Snoopy. 8. Interrogative. 9. Interested.
10. Intrusive.

R.) Remorseful

1. Apologetic. 2. Sorry. 3. Repentant. 4. Contrite. 5. Penitent.
6. Rueful. 7. Ashamed. 8. Mortified. 9. Abashed.
10. Conscience-stricken.

S.) Shy

1. Reserved. 2. Timid. 3. Bashful. 4. Self-conscious. 5. Introverted.
6. Reticent. 7. Retiring. 8. Chary. 9. Withdrawn. 10. Diffident.

T.) Tense

1. Jittery. 2. Jumpy. 3. Uptight. 4. Restless. 5. On edge. 6. Agitated.
7. Uneasy. 8. Fraught. 9. Keyed-up. 10. Wound-up.

U.) Unhappy

1. Depressed. 2. Blue. 3. Glum. 4. Sad. 5. Downhearted.
6. Melancholy. 7. Downcast. 8. Dispirited. 9. Morose. 10. Low.

V.) Vain

1. Egoistic. 2. Conceited. 3. Proud. 4. Snobbish. 5. Haughty.
6. Arrogant. 7. Boastful. 8. Overbearing. 9. Self-important.
10. Toffee-nosed.

W.) Worried

1. Anxious. 2. Perturbed. 3. Troubled. 4. Uneasy. 5. Fearful.
6. Apprehensive. 7. Bothered. 8. Disturbed. 9. Unsettled.
10. Ill at ease.

X.) “e(X)citable(/Emotional)

1. Emotional
2. Testy.
3. Moody.
4. Volatile.
5. Mercurial.
6. Tempestuous.
7. Hot-headed.
8. Quick-tempered.
9. Unpredictable.
10. Temperamental.

Y.) Yearning

1. Longing.
2. Craving.
3. Desirous.
4. Wanting.
5. Hankering.
6. Lustful.
7. Aching.
8. Hungering.
9. Burning.
10. Thirsting.

Z.) Zealous

1. Fanatical.
2. Ardent.
3. Fervid.
4. Avid.
5. Fervent.
6. Impassioned.
7. Intense.
8. Devoted.
9. Zestful.
10. Enthusiastic.

Reserve Letters/Possibilities

Bored(/Indifferent)

1. Fed up.
2. Apathetic.
3. Cheesed off.
4. Listless.
5. Lethargic.
6. Enervated.
7. Unenthusiastic.
8. Weary.
9. Languid.
10. Tired.

I.) Introverted

1. Withdrawn.
2. Shy.
3. Reserved.
4. Contemplative.
5. Pensive.
6. Meditative.
7. Introspective.
8. Inward looking.
9. Musing.
10. Brooding.

K.) Keen

1. Enthusiastic.
2. Ardent.
3. Fervent.
4. Avid.
5. Zealous.
6. Eager.
7. Fanatical.
8. Earnest.
9. Passionate.
10. Fired up.

T.) Tired

1. Weary.
2. Fatigued.
3. Drained.
4. Whacked.
5. Bushed.
6. Pooped.
7. All-in.
8. Dead-beat.
9. Knackered.
10. Exhausted

X.) “e(X)troverted”

1. Outgoing.
2. Sociable.
3. Gregarious.
4. Lively.
5. Outspoken.
6. Bubbly.
7. Friendly.
8. Forthright.
9. Effervescent.
10. Bouncy.

The reader can find in this book over a hundred exercises of various shapes and sizes mainly suitable for advanced students. However, the exercises in some sections are "graded" according to difficulty with easier tests being followed by more difficult ones. Thus intermediate students too can very much benefit from its contents! The book has also to some extent been arranged thematically, and has exercises that are interrelated. Additionally, there is towards the back of the book a vocabulary game. Hence, teachers should also find this work very useful especially in the classroom...

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